

Hafa Adai!

Visitor arrivals up 60% in March. **PAGE 2**

Kingman: No basis for me to be disqualified. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 76

www.saipantribune.com

TUESDAY APRIL 16, 2024

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CNMI joins Blue Planet Alliance



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Attendees and dignitaries pose with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Blue Planet Alliance executive director Francois Rogers, Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Betty Terlaje, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero for a photo following the signing of the Blue Planet Climate Agreement yesterday at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Bringing the CNMI into the Blue Planet Alliance as its newest member, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios signed the Blue Planet Climate Agree-

ment yesterday at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

The signing ceremony between Palacios and Hawaii-based Blue Planet
See ALLIANCE on Page 4



CHRYSTAL MARINO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Blue Planet Alliance executive director Francois Rogers shake hands following the signing of the Blue Planet Climate Agreement yesterday at the Aqua Resort Club in Achugao.

Chamber, HANMI throw strong support to new land lease for Coral Ocean Resort

» **Sen. Babauta asks Senate committee to do due diligence in assessing Suwaso's value**



Guerrero

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the NMI have thrown strong support to the Department of Lands' proposal to grant a new lease to Suwaso Corp. so it could

See CHAMBER on Page 4

'A lot of multi-million CIP projects coming our way'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Capital Improvement Program administrator Elizabeth S. Balajadia said a lot of multi-million-dollar CIP projects are coming to the CNMI.



Balajadia

Speaking at a press brief-

ing last week, Balajadia said creating a lot of the capital improvement projects are ongoing whether people see it out there or not.

She said they have fund-

ing from the Office of Insular Affairs, Economic Development Administration, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Even the smallest shutter project under the FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency], you know,

See CIP on Page 4

Men who orchestrated scheme to transport illegal aliens plead guilty

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

All four men accused of ar-

ranging the transport of illegal aliens from Saipan to Guam have pleaded guilty to the charges filed against them.

Yan Juan Hu Taitano, Ramon Jose Quitano Sablan, Lee Omar Reyes, and Maverick Iguel Marlik—four men accused of arranging the transport of nine undocumented Chinese nationals from Saipan

See MEN on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Hyatt Regency Saipan has been empathetic to requests for vegan and plant-based cuisine, ensuring that these options are readily available for guests.

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WORLD

The United States on Sunday highlighted its role in helping Israel thwart Iran's aerial attack as President Joe Biden convened leaders of the Group of Seven countries in an effort to prevent a wider regional escalation and coordinate a global rebuke of Tehran.

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LIFE & STYLE

Alex Garland's provocative "Civil War" didn't only ignite the discourse. The film also inspired audiences to go to the cinemas this weekend where it surpassed expectations and earned \$25.7 million in ticket sales in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

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Local

Visitor arrivals up 60% in March

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota grew 60% to 19,213 visitors in March 2024, compared to 12,005 visitors received in March 2023. Monthly arrivals were 46% lower compared to pre-pandemic levels of March 2019, when arrivals reached 35,295 visitors.

Visitor arrivals from South Korea registered 14,403 in March, 54% higher than March 2023. Direct flight service is provided to Saipan from Seoul by T'way, Asiana Airlines, and Jeju Air. The monthly average airline load factor—or percentage of seats sold—has been above 90% since January, reaching 91% in March for regular flights. Saipan Marathon on March 9 was also a draw for visitors, with 22% of registrants from South Korea.

For the second time since the pandemic, visitor arrivals from Japan broke the 1,000-mark, registering 1,470 arrivals in March 2024 compared to 471 visitors in March 2023.



The Marianas Visitors Authority office at the Saipan Gold Beach Hotel along Beach Road in Garapan.

Over 680 Japanese arrived on the cruise ship M/S *Asuka*. As the Japanese yen is weaker against most foreign currencies, domestic travel remains a popular choice. The strong U.S. dollar and

weaker Japanese yen and Korean won continue to influence travelers from those countries to choose non-U.S. destinations at this time.

China arrivals in March 2024 reached 1,222 com-

pared to 58 arrivals in March 2023. Prior to the pandemic, China was the second largest source market of visitors to the Marianas with multiple direct flights a week from five cities. Most visitors from

China are now FITs transiting via Seoul and Tokyo to The Marianas, although Hong Kong Airlines will commence twice weekly direct flights from Hong Kong to Saipan on April 28, 2024. This will mark the airline's first flights

to the Marianas since the COVID-19 pandemic.

In March, the Marianas also received 815 visitors from Guam, 809 visitors from the United States, and a combined 494 visitors from all other markets. (PR)

Norita says coordinator hired to track multiple years of federal audit findings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita has disclosed that they have hired a coordinator to track the multiple years of federal audit findings issued to government agencies.

In response to a question during a press briefing last week, Norita said the federal audit findings have been acknowledged even by their cognizant agency, the Office of Insular Affairs and through the single audit grant that was given to assist the CNMI.



Norita

Norita said they don't just track one year of audit findings, as they have to go back multiple single audits and follow up on every outstanding finding and questioned costs.

She said they have somebody on board to help with that workload and that entails reaching out to all agencies, not just the Department of Finance, and follow up on each of the findings and the status of clearance of those findings from multiple federal agencies.

"And so it is a large amount of work. However, it is being addressed," Norita said.

CNMI Mathematicians shine on the national stage



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Hans Ordas of Grace Christian Academy, Jinhyun Choi of Saipan International School, Weihang Chen of Agape Christian School, and Jiayu Qiu of Eucon International School.

Four brilliant middle school students from the CNMI showcased their mathematical prowess on a grand scale at the mathleague.org Nationals on April 13, 2024 in Houston, Texas.

Despite traveling the furthest among the 94 participating schools from 27 states, these young mathematicians displayed remarkable resilience and determination. Their efforts were rewarded as they clinched an impressive fifth place in the

Team Sweepstakes category. Team CNMI's achievement not only highlights their individual talents, but also underscores the potential of mathematics education in the region. Team CNMI consists of Jinhyun Choi (Saipan International School, 8th grade), Hans Ordas (Grace Christian Academy, 7th grade), Weihang Chen (Agape Christian School, 8th grade), and Jiayu Qiu (Eucon International School, 6th grade). (PR)

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Marianas Storytelling Program at AMP

The National Park Service, in partnership with Guampedia Foundation, presents “Marianas Storytelling: Land & Lineage” at American Memorial Park on April 18, 2024, beginning at 5:30pm. The program will feature heart-centered stories that reflect the significance and connections of land and lineage in the journey of the Chamorro people of the Marianas. From community stories to digital stories, this special event will introduce the National Park Service project “Mariana Islands War-time Experiences through Oral Histories” along with Guampedia’s newest section “Celebrating Chamorro/CHamoru Nobenas” and will end with the screening of “Promesa” a film documentary by Dr. Lola Quan Bautista.

In just a few months the Marianas will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of World War II. Those who survived are often regarded as the greatest generation. Despite all that they suffered and lost

they rebuilt their lives through their faith and in the true spirit of *inafa’maolek* and forged ahead to make things better for all of us who call the Marianas home. The 80th anniversary also reminds us that this living history in the Marianas is fading as many of our war survivors have passed on. Through the efforts of many, some of their stories have been documented and recorded, and the National Park Service is working to bring forth its collection of these lived experiences.

The second part of the program will feature digital stories that reflect the richness and beauty of our kostumbren Chamorro that evolved over the period referred to as *I Tiempón Español*. Although colonized and made to adopt different ways, our *mañaina* held strong to their cultural values and identity as a people through language and rituals like the Chamorro nobena. The documentary “Promesa” provides a profound reflection on the intertwined nature of faith, family and community. Through intimate interviews with prayer leaders Rita Pangelinan Nauta, Carmen Camacho Rojas, Teresita Concepcion Flores, and Malia Leon Guerrero Ramirez, the film highlights the Chamorro nobena tradition and significance beyond religious practice. It showcases not only the religious underpinnings but also the unifying force binding families and communities together, capturing the richness and depth of this tradition, and ensuring its enduring legacy within the Chamorro culture.

The primary objective of this Marianas Storytelling: Land & Lineage program is to inspire people from manhoben to manamko to seek out and share stories about our islands through family histories—at familia gatherings, at the lanchos or just around the kitchen table!

For more information, contact ranger Brooke Nevitt at (670) 234-7207 and (670) 234-2020 or email brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. (PR)



Nevitt



SPRING 2024 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PSS

Staff and personnel of Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School engage with Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence Fejeran Camacho, left, during a recent school-based professional development on the school district’s strategic priorities (direction for growth). The education chief and various school administrators, program directors, program managers, and project leaders facilitated the school-based Spring 2024 Statewide Professional Development initiated by the Public School System’s Human Resource Office for all employees of the 20 elementary, middle, and high schools on Saipan. Tinian and Rota and the central office. Topics include high quality instructional materials, cybersecurity awareness, relevance, and relationship framework and best practices, activities for English language learners, mental health, sexual harassment prevention at the workplace, empowering Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies educators, ELA PLC, Math PLC, Science PLC, Social Studies PLC, Career Pathways, emergency operations procedures, college and career opportunities, infinite campus, and school counseling.

\$100K grant to explore use of AI for diabetes tracking in Guam

A new \$100,000 grant awarded to the University of Guam’s College of Natural & Applied Sciences will fund a pilot project through September exploring the use of A.I. to improve diabetes data and outcomes within marginalized communities.

The feasibility study—titled “Diabetes Surveillance to Examine Health and Nutrition Access/Availability,” or DISEHA—is funded by the National Institutes of Health’s AIM-AHEAD Program. AIM-AHEAD is looking to enhance the diversity of populations represented in the development of A.I. and machine learning (AI/ML) models in order to address the disparity that exists with health data while at the same time improving the emerging technology.

“The lack of diversity of both data and researchers in the AI/ML field runs the risk of creating and perpetuating harmful biases in its practice, algorithms, and outcomes, thus fostering continued health disparities and inequities,” the AIM-AHEAD Program states.

The short-term goal of the DISEHA study in Guam is to examine the feasibility of using existing clinical data, such as electronic health records, to establish a Guam Diabetes Registry. This pilot project will establish the data framework for the registry to utilize AI/ML to show patterns in diabetes incidence, prevalence, mortality, and comorbidities among the diverse ethnic groups in Guam at present and over time.

“A registry will help identify vulnerable groups and unique influential risk factors

that will inform community programs and guide research,” said Dr. Tanisha F. Aflague, a registered dietitian nutritionist, associate professor of nutrition at UOG, and the pilot project’s principal investigator.

The long-term goal of DISEHA is to harness the potential of AI/ML data science to reduce the health disparity of type 2 diabetes and reduce comorbidities in high-risk populations in Guam. The project will help identify social determinants of health as well as reveal opportunities to improve

health care and create locally relevant prevention and management programs.

“In the CHamoru language, ‘diseha’ means to wish, hope, or dream, and through this project we aim to achieve the dream of using technology to streamline methods for tracking diabetes on our island,” Aflague said.

She has enlisted the Diabetes Foundation of Guam as co-investigators and Engracia “Grace” Valencia as data manager. The DISEHA research team has engaged community partners and private/public stakeholders to conduct the study. (PR)



Aflague



AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang sign the proclamation recognizing the month of April as Autism Awareness Month last April 1 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

EPA announces Pollution Prevention Recognition Program for Pacific Southwest Region in 2024

SAN FRANCISCO—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the 2024 Regional Pollution Prevention Recognition Program for the Pacific Southwest region of the United States. The program will recognize environmental leaders in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands territories and 128 Tribal Nations within the boundaries of those states for innovative P2 practices.

“Preventing pollution at its source is integral to protecting public health and the environment in the Pacific Southwest,” said Claire Trombadore, director of the Land, Chemicals and Redevelopment Division for

EPA’s Pacific Southwest Regional Office. “We look forward to celebrating innovative P2 practices across our region that can serve as models for industry, governments, Tribes and non-profits to reduce pollution in local communities.”

» Applications will be accepted through May 24, 2024

P2, as defined in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, is any practice that reduces environmental releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants prior to entering a waste stream for recycling, treatment or disposal. P2 conserves natural resources, including water and energy, by focusing industry, government and public attention on reducing pollution

through the implementation of cost-effective changes in production, operation and the use of raw materials.

This is an annual, voluntary, and non-monetary recognition program. Organizations eligible to apply or be nominated include non-profit and for-profit entities, Tribal businesses, and companies assisted by P2 grant recipients. To be considered for recognition, entities must submit an application describing the nominee’s P2 efforts, activities, cost savings, pounds of hazardous chemicals reduced, energy conserved, or gallons of water saved, as well as the replicability of their approach. The application deadline is May 24, 2024. (PR)



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS</p> <p>A. Call to Order</p> <p>B. Roll Call</p> <p>C. Adoption of Agenda</p> <p>D. Adoption of Minutes</p> <p>1. December 18, 2023 – Regular Meeting</p> <p>2. January 26, 2024 – Special Meeting</p> <p>II. PUBLIC COMMENTS</p> <p>III. REPORTS</p> <p>A. DCD Financial Status</p> <p>IV. OLD BUSINESS</p> <p>A. New Loan Program – FLIB (Board Action)</p> | <p>V. NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>A. Loan Matters (Board Action)</p> <p>1. David A. Atalig</p> <p>2. Niric LLC</p> <p>3. Pacific Educational Consulting Co. LLC</p> <p>4. Frances T. Ada</p> <p>5. Corrine SN. Cing</p> <p>6. James A. Rabaulman Jr.</p> <p>7. Martin DLR. & Crystal C. Pangelinan</p> <p>8. Rosita SN. Borja & The Estate of Antonio H. Borja</p> <p>9. Yolanda Catbagan</p> <p>10. Pete & Rowena Taitano</p> <p>VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <p>VII. ADJOURNMENT</p> |
|--|---|

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
CHAIRMAN

Kingman: No basis for me to be disqualified

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the defense argues that assistant attorney general James Kingman should be disqualified from prosecuting former governor Ralph DLG Torres in an ongoing contempt case, Kingman counters that there is no basis for his disqualification.

Yesterday, Superior Court judge *pro tem* Arthur Barcinas held a hearing to discuss the motions pending in the ongoing contempt case against former governor Torres.

One of the pending motions before the court is a motion filed by Torres' attorney

Joaquin Torres seeking the disqualification of the Office of the Attorney General and Kingman from prosecuting the case.

The defense argues that they are concerned about Kingman's impartiality because of his association with chief solicitor Robert Glass who was disqualified in a similar case.

In an interview with Kingman after the hearing, he stated that there is no basis for his disqualification.

"There is not a basis for me to be disqualified. It's not on the prosecutor to lay out the rule 'why you should be

on the case.' I was admitted to the bar on a provisional license. I was made a special prosecutor on this matter. The prior prosecutor assigned on this matter was the only one disqualified from the case and I am not him. The whole basis of that [disqualification] was the role of the AG's

office as advisor [to the governor] long before I was on the island or even heard the names of the principles. It's hard for me to see what the basis would be...for removing me from the case as they had Mr. [Robert] Glass," he said.



Kingman

as other government and private agencies, non-profits, and community members were also in attendance.

The agreement highlighted the CNMI's commitment to pivot away from fossil fuels and through the agreement signified that as a member of the Blue Planet Alliance, the BPA would work together to help the CNMI government stay on track to reach their ultimate goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045 in a timely manner.

In his remarks Rogers said, "Today's partnership that we will form together by having a joint alliance, along with many, many other islands that have already signed this agreement, it shows the unity and the collective

effort that we need to work together to make sure that we achieve this. If we put our heads together, and set our minds, and set a deadline, anything is achievable. And I think that is the reason we're here all today."

Palacios also shared "The Commonwealth's transition to renew its energy sources is more important now more than ever. As we see our neighboring islands in Micronesia and elsewhere throughout the world, climate change poses a significant threat to our environment, our economy, and our way of life. The urgency is certainly real, and the time to act is now."

The agreement states "Whereas the Blue Planet

Kingman said that he intends to file a written response to the motion seeking his disqualification in time for the motion hearing.

"I'll respond to their motion to disqualify me, it's nothing I haven't seen before, and I'll proceed with the necessary steps to move these cases down the road. The judge issued an opinion last Friday regarding the justification for ordering a probable cause determination hearing which was originally set for [April 15] then he vacated the hearing... and instead held a scheduling conference and all that was scheduled was the briefing for the motion

Alliance is going to end the use of carbon-based fuel in the world by 2045, and is ready to assist any island or country committed to achieving this goal, and whereas the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has committed to achieving 100% renewable energy by 2045, The parties therefore agree to work together to ensure that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands can achieve this climate-restoring benchmark. The parties further agree to work together to create a world in which humanity and nature live in harmony."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

they see a lease extension, it gives them that confidence that these things are in the right direction.

Guerrero said he lives in Precinct 1 and that he is excited that he has another place to dine and have recreation in their area.

He asked Suwaso as with other hotels that recently renewed to consider strongly employing the locals that live particularly in the area.

The president said Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho took an initiative to promote local hiring for businesses within their precincts.

Guerrero challenged Suwaso to seriously hire as many residents from Koblerville and surrounding areas.

Chamber director Sablan, who is also with Tan Holdings, said as he stated at the previous DPL hearing, they won't find another organization in the Commonwealth like Suwaso or E-Land that is dedicated to the investment and operation of a hotel leader and various other ancillary businesses that support tourism.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

that was filed last Thursday which was the [defense's] motion to disqualify the OAG from the case... and to disqualify me. It sounds as if the judge would rather address their motion about dis-

qualification before getting to the matter of determining probable cause," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CIP

From page 1

protects a lot of our lives here in the community," said Balajadia, who is also the acting director for the Office of Planning and Development.

She also pointed out that they have renovation projects for public facilities.

Balajadia said under the EPA, they have the \$56-million federal Additional Supplemental Appropriation for Disaster Relief Act (ASADRA) funds that are appropriated related to disaster recovery in the CNMI.

She said ASADRA has funded the creation of Marpi Landfill Cell 2.

Balajadia said they are also doing the comprehensive Solid Waste Plan in order for the CNMI to avail of another \$32 million worth of projects.

"So, there's a lot of, you know, positive and there's a lot of actions out there. It's not just Beach Road," she said.

Regarding the 702 Covenant-funded projects on Tinian and Rota, Balajadia said they are still working on the projects and in fact their CIP

Office has hired a private consultant to do the environmental assessment for those two projects.

Balajadia's office administers the 702 Covenant funding, which provides Capital Improvement Program money for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For Tinian, their proposed projects are to provide a waterline and power lines for the West San Jose subdivision. For Rota, it's the duty water line that connects to the home-stand by the airport.

Balajadia said she explained during a recent joint meeting of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and Senate Resources, Economic Development and Programs, and Gaming Committee, that the Office of Insular Affairs requires them to do the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before any money is spent.

She said because the projects on Tinian and Rota require water lines and power lines," it is not what they call a categorical exclusion."

"What it is that we need to make more of an environmental assessment which it just means more time-consuming," Balajadia said.

MEN

From page 1

to Guam—have each pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to transport illegal aliens.

Taitano and Sablan on Thursday pleaded guilty to the charge against them last Thursday, while Marlik pleaded guilty last Feb. 26, and Reyes pleaded guilty last Feb. 13.

Taitano and Sablan's sentencing has been set for Aug. 30 while Marlik and Reyes are set for sentencing on July 12 and June 28, respectively.

According to the indictment, beginning in or about June 2023, Taitano and Reyes orchestrated a plan to transport a group of nine Chinese nationals from the Northern Mariana Islands with "intent to unlawfully enter and reside in...Guam, knowing...that the Chinese nationals had no right or authority to enter Guam."

To carry out the plan, Taitano and Reyes allegedly hired Sablan and Marlik to captain a small motorboat from Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan to Guam on or about July 9, 2023. The nine Chinese nationals were Li Xiaohua, Dong Chang Cai, Huang Xiulan, Yang Hongjiang, Weng Mei Fang, Wu Yingchun, Gao Kun, Tang Yong Bing, and

Li Kun. All nine have been charged separately and have already pleaded guilty.

According to the indictment, the Chinese nationals agreed to pay Taitano and Reyes up to \$5,000 per individual.

"On or about July 9, 2023, the defendants arranged for the boat to pick up the Chinese nationals at Smiling Cove Marina with the goal of transporting [them] to Guam. The Chinese nationals met Taitano and Reyes on at least two occasions to make down-payments; part of which... Taitano and Reyes used to purchase the motorboat that was to be used for the trip," the indictment stated.

The indictment states that Reyes agreed to pay Sablan to drive the boat and to pay Marlik to provide assistance like refueling the boat.

"The boat departed Smiling Cove Marina at approximately 9pm with... Sablan and Marlik as well as the nine Chinese national passengers on board. The boat proceeded south toward... Guam," said the indictment.

However, enroute, the boat ran out of fuel and began to drift just before it reached the island of Rota. They all had to be rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The U.S. government wants to forfeit the vessel and the proceeds from carrying out the scheme.

ALLIANCE

From page 1

Alliance executive director Francois Rogers was well attended by many dignitaries including visiting Guam Lt. Gov. of Joshua Tenorio, Guam Sen. Amanda Sheldon, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and several guests from the University of Guam led by Dr. Austin J. Sheldon III.

Saipan Mayor Ramon Blas "RB" Camacho, members of the Legislature led by Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Northern Marianas College staff and students led by NMC president Dr. Galvin DeLeon Guerrero, the Marianas Island Nature Alliance, as well

CHAMBER

From page 1

continue to operate its Coral Ocean Resort for another 40 years.

At the Senate Resources, Economic Development, Programs & Gaming Committee public hearing last Tuesday last week, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Guerrero and Chamber director Alex Sablan reiterated their support to granting a new lease to Suwaso Corp.

During a public comment portion of the hearing, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) testified that she is not against granting a new lease to Suwaso, but just asking the committee to do due diligence in making a proper assessment of the value contributed by Suwaso.

Babauta said records reflect that Suwaso's annual lease payment is only \$156,000 annually.

"So in the 40 years that Suwaso has occupied the public land in the south where they're situated that their total dollar contributions in terms of lease payments is a little over \$6 million," she said.

The senator said in order to

make a proper assessment of the value given to the CNMI government, she believes it's appropriate that this committee asks Suwaso for all their contributions, including their Business Gross Revenue Tax, public benefits attributed to the government and the public, and any infrastructure costs they have incurred since the beginning of their lease.

Babauta said her understanding is that Suwaso promised 200 rooms when they were granted the lease initially.

She said she is not sure if that is correct as to how many rooms they initially promised, but that it's important to know the facts and see if Suwaso did in fact make good on their promise.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the REDPG Committee, said those are some very important and great points that Babauta brought up and that the committee will definitely be requesting this information from DPL when they hold their committee meeting.

Magofna has set the REDPG meeting this Friday at 10am in the Senate chamber.

Chamber president Joe Guerrero, who was invited by

the committee to speak about the proposed granting of new lease, noted that the Chamber and HANMI recently wrote a letter of support to the new lease and that he is there to reiterate and express full support for this new lease.

Guerrero said Chamber is a collective of over 120 members representing a diverse group of businesses and non-profits as well.

"And so on their behalf, we're very grateful that the committee is looking at the proposed lease before you and would like to ask for your full support," he said.

Guerrero noted that Suwaso is the first resort that visitors and returning residency see on Saipan as the plane makes its way towards the runway at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

He said he is glad that Suwaso has plans to improve, add rooms, and beautify the area.

Guerrero said renewing a lease or entering a new lease for public land of this magnitude is very important as a sort of measurement or signal for the business community, including potential new investors.

He said it means a lot to small businesses alike as when

House passes Radewagen cosponsored EXPLORE Act

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) is an original cosponsor of the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act, H.R. 6492, which the House passed Tuesday in a bipartisan vote. This comprehensive bill was introduced by Natural

Resources Committee chair Bruce Westerman (R-AR) with ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) to improve access and transform outdoor recreation opportunities on America's public lands.

"I welcome House passage of another good bill from our committee, and I'm happy to be an original cosponsor of the

bipartisan EXPLORE Act," said Radewagen. "Generations to come will benefit from strengthening parks and recreational areas. We have our own beautiful National Park of American Samoa along with outdoor activities for our young people here that can look to this bill for future support. Nationally, through this bill, Congress is promoting recreation opportunities for active service members and veterans, improving access for children and individuals with disabilities, supporting bike and hike trails, clarifying access for sportsmen and women, streamlining permitting for guides, protecting rock climbing in iconic places, enhancing park facilities and technology, and modernizing campgrounds."

Westerman said, "Access to America's beautiful public lands and waters is part of what makes our country the greatest nation on earth. These incredible resources should be shared by all Americans, and expanding access and recreation opportunities is the kind of bipartisan work that we're here in Congress to do. As an avid outdoorsman, I'm proud to champion the EXPLORE Act and see it pass out of the House today. This seminal piece of legislation will modernize visitor experiences, increase accessibility for veterans and service members, create new opportunities and trails for climbers and bikers, and support small businesses and gateway communities that depend on access to our public lands. This legislation also includes key priorities for my constituents back home in Arkansas, including reopening overnight campgrounds, protecting battlefields, and creating new park-

ing and restroom facilities. I'd like to thank ranking member Grijalva and the many other members on both sides of the aisle who have contributed to this bill. I look forward to working with Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources chair Manchin and ranking member Barasso, who are leading companion legislation in the Senate, to see the EXPLORE Act move swiftly through the Senate and ultimately into law."

Grijalva said, "All Americans should have access to the unique recreational oppor-

tunities on our prized public lands, and I'm confident the EXPLORE Act will be a critical catalyst in realizing that goal. I'm especially heartened



Radewagen

by the bill's provisions to promote accessibility for the disability community, increase job opportunities for veterans, and close the nature gap in underserved urban communities. It's critical that we build on this progress

to support place-based conservation and restoration and further invest in land management agencies so we can sustainably manage

our public lands for future generations. The EXPLORE Act combined with these efforts can help ensure that the outdoors is for all. I want to thank chairman Westerman for his partnership on this important legislation."

The nationwide outdoor recreation economy creates over \$1 trillion in economic output and supports some five million jobs. The bill attracted enthusiastic public support by more than 100 outdoor-oriented organizations, representing hunting, fishing, horseback riding, boating, camping, biking, rock climbing, and recreation groups. (PR)

Sen. San Nicolas calls for testing of imported water in light of PFAS concerns

GUAM—In response to ongoing issues with PFAS contamination found in local wells requiring costly treatment, Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas is calling for the testing of water imported into Guam.

Guam imports a significant amount of its water supply each year. However, recent discussions with Public Health have revealed the status and safety of imported water is currently unclear and not systematically tested.

"With the new health advisories and regulatory actions surrounding PFAS, it's imperative we ensure all water sources consumed on Guam are safe," said San Nicolas. "While GWA focuses on addressing contaminated wells, we cannot rule out potential dangers from imported water supplies without proper testing."

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been widely used and may be found in imported water due to their use in consumer and in-

dustrial products globally. Known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment, PFAS have been linked to various health issues.

Recently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced new health advisories for PFAS in drinking water, underscoring the need for action. Given the risks and large volumes of imported water on Guam, testing



San Nicolas

is necessary to safeguard public health and address any contamination through treatment if needed. As an island community reliant on stable water sources, a comprehensive approach is prudent. The senator, who has oversight over border safety, homeland security, and emergency response policy matters directly related to importing unsafe products, remains committed to strong oversight and cooperative solutions that sustainably address PFAS and protect families. Safe, clean water is a basic necessity, and imported supplies must meet the same standards as locally sourced water. (PR)

UOG students host Micronesian culture and traditions

Dive into the vibrant world of Micronesian culture at the annual Micronesian Culture and Traditions Day event on April 20 in the University of Guam Calvo Field House from 5:30pm to 9:30pm.

Organized by students from the UOG Residence Halls Governing Council, the event is meant to be a celebration and exploration of Micronesian cultures and an expression of unity through storytelling, performances, and food.

The event will feature student organizations representing all of Micronesia, showcasing what makes their cultures unique including dance performances and cul-

tural displays.

Featured organizations include:

- Guma' Rāsan Ācho' Latte Organization
- Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Student Organization
- Republic of Palau Student Organization
- Yap Student Organization
- Chuuk Student Organization
- Pohnpei Student Organization
- Kosrae Student Organization
- Iakwe Club

"We're excited to share the rich tapestry of cultures and

traditions that will be celebrated during this special event," said Jarvis Falow, UOG student and president of the Residence Halls Governing Council. "Through the Micronesian Culture and Traditions Day event, we aim to foster a sense of unity and purpose, empowering our communities to work together towards shared goals."

For more about the Micronesian Cultural and Traditions Day event, including information on participating organizations, scheduled activities, and how to get involved, please follow on Instagram: @uog_rhgc or email: uog.rhgc@gotritons.uog.edu. (PR)



Falow

Bipartisan resolution aiming to cover costs for adaptive vehicles for veterans with disabilities receives support

GUAM—The director of the Guam Office of Veterans Affairs appeared before the Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs and testified in favor of Resolution No. 218-37 (COR), which supports legislation in Washington, D.C. that will cover the costs of shipping for adaptive vehicles for qualified veterans with disabilities.

Democrat Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, the author of Resolution 218-37 and the legislative chairman

of the Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs, held a public hearing at the Guam Congress Building in Hagatna on April 11.

Jose San Agustin, director of Guam Office of Veterans Affairs, said that he supports the resolution. "There are over 600-plus one 100% disabled veterans on Guam, which is a significant number," said San Agustin at the public hearing. "I applaud Delegate James Moylan for addressing this. It is only right that we support

H.R. 522 through Resolution 218-37 from Congressman Moylan because veterans with disabilities served in defense of the country and our island. I support this one 100% because we should not burden our veterans who really need this type of service."

Under federal law, financial assistance is provided to qualified veterans with disabilities to purchase adaptive vehicles or other conveyances.

Currently, such vehicles are not available on Guam, costing thousands of dollars to qualified disabled veterans.

Resolution 218-37 supports H.R. 522, Deliver for Veterans Act, introduced by Guam Delegate James Moylan in the United States House of Representatives, which aims to cover the shipping and delivery expenses of adaptive vehicles provided for veterans with disabilities. "I commend Congressman Moylan for taking up this issue," said San Nicolas during the public hearing. "The cost of shipping is expensive, especially for those living out here in Guam. I am a veteran and, as lawmakers, we should work to improve the livelihoods of the communities we serve."

Amending the federal law will not only cover shipping costs for adaptive vehicles or other conveyances for disabled veterans, who qualify for financial assistance, but will also help them maintain their independence."

The bipartisan resolution is co-sponsored by 11 of his legislative colleagues, Sens. Roy A.B. Quinata, Joe S. San Agustin, William Parkinson, Vice Speaker Tina Muna Barnes, Amanda Shelton, Speaker Therese Terlaje, Joanne Brown, Frank Blas, Jr., Chris Barnett, Christopher Duenas, and Jesse Lujan. (PR)



FREEPIK.COM

A disabled military dad plays with two children in the park.

Opinion

Hafa Adail

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 76Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Open court, from OJ to Trump: The hush money trial transcripts must be published

O.J. Simpson's death reminds us that the 134 days of wall-to-wall TV coverage of his 1995 criminal trial allowed Americans to see every aspect of a celebrity case play out in a Los Angeles courtroom. Millions watched and millions of others didn't, but the choice was theirs.

Wrongly, terribly wrongly, there will be no such option for Americans to watch the far more consequential and important criminal trial of Donald Trump, starting in a Manhattan courtroom on Monday. They may not be able to even read the transcripts of the proceedings. This is the opposite of transparency.

Yes, Simpson was charged and acquitted of two murders, of his ex wife Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman, far more serious crimes than what Trump is facing for hiding hush money payments to porn actor Stormy Daniels.

However, Simpson was just a retired football great and a not great actor, while Trump is the first ex-president and the first presidential nominee to face a criminal trial. The fate of the nation's past leader, and possible future leader, is at stake.

Supporters of Trump should be outraged by this, as should opponents of the ex-president. Everyone should have the opportunity to decide for themselves on the trial being conducted by Acting Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan by watching, listening or reading everything that is happening in the courtroom.

Unlike California of three decades ago, the backward New York of today does not allow cameras or even microphones in courtrooms when witness testimony is being given, making it alone along with Louisiana, (which uniquely uses the continental civil code) in remaining in the dark ages.

Of course, New York should permit video and audio of civil and criminal trials, which Gov. Kathy Hochul and Chief Judge Rowan Wilson support and the state Senate is advancing a bill. Keep going and get it done. But it won't happen by Monday, but that still leaves Merchan free to permit video or audio of the non-witness portions.

Still, cameras and mics aside, what Merchan and Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joe Zayas must absolutely do is make sure that the daily verbatim transcripts prepared by court stenographers are free to be published.

Lawyer Nick Akerman, an occasional op-ed writer in these pages, submitted a letter to Merchan and the court file on Monday requesting full public access to the transcripts, something this column has been raising the alarm on for a year. So far there's been no response to Akerman's request.

The stenographers get paid six-figure salaries as state employees with full benefits, including health insurance with no copays, and guaranteed pensions (real pensions). Yet under a crazy deal they cut long ago, they get to personally pocket the proceeds of every transcript they sell to the court,

See OPEN on Page 7



Joe Biden's tone shifts and Israel pulls troops from Gaza. What's next?

When Israel began striking back against Hamas in Gaza a mere hours after 3,000 terrorists stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, most people believed the ensuing conflict would last a few months at most. And yet here we are, six months after the first shots were fired with no end in sight. Despite the latest pullout of Israeli troops in the enclave's south over the weekend, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is as focused today on wiping out Hamas as he was when the first bombs dropped.

To say a lot has changed since October would be a shallow interpretation of events. The last six months has upended the prevailing assumptions that have dominated U.S. and Israeli policy in the Middle East, delayed big diplomatic initiatives in the region and sparked a series of other conflicts ranging from an undeclared war between the Houthis and the U.S. Navy in the Red Sea as well as increasingly intense fighting between Israel and Hezbollah along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Before the war, the United States was eyeing what would be the most significant diplomatic achievement in the Middle East since the Oslo Accords in the 1990s: normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. President Joe Biden was fully committed to surpassing his predecessor's Abraham Accords, a series of agreements that normalized Israel's diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. Biden's attempt to do the same with Saudi Arabia would have topped that previous arrangement given the kingdom's wealth, stature and political power in the Arab world. Indeed, the president himself was so eager to bring Saudi Arabia and Israel together that he was willing to expend considerable concessions to do it, including a offering a firmer U.S. security guarantee to Riyadh and assistance with the Saudis' domestic nuclear energy program.

The war in Gaza, though, ruined the entire plan. While administration officials are still trying to pull a diplomatic rabbit out of their hat, Israel's relentless offensive in Gaza and the humanitarian calamity it has unleashed (thousands of Palestinians killed, half of the enclave's buildings destroyed or damaged, most of the population internally uprooted and imminent famine in northern parts of the territory) has stiffened Saudi Arabia's spine. Before the war, Riyadh might have been fine with extracting a few token Israeli concessions for the Palestinians such as more land West Bank land transfers to the Palestinian Authority. But this is no longer optimal for the Saudis, who are now demanding nothing short of a full Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in exchange for normalizing ties with Israel—the very thing Netanyahu has committed himself to blocking.

The war has also shredded individual reputations. Benjamin Netanyahu used to be Mr. Security—that is, the Israeli politician who prided himself on defending Israel. Then Oct. 7 happened, when Hamas invaded southern Israel, tore through small Israeli communities along the border with Gaza and took more than 250 people back to Gaza with them. The veteran Israeli pol is now dealing with a whirlwind of justifiable scrutiny. Mr. Security looks like a deer

By DANIEL DEPETRIS
Chicago Tribune

caught in the headlights, a man who was caught flat-footed as innocent Israelis were being slaughtered in their homes. Just as worse, Netanyahu looks like a narcissist who is seemingly incapable of admitting fault when there's plenty of blame to go around.

If the war has shown us anything, it's that Netanyahu isn't the strong decision-maker he claims to be. Rather, the politician is a risk-averse ditherer who cares about his political power first and foremost. Every war-time decision is made with one consideration above all else: will this break my extreme, ultra-nationalist coalition apart? If the answer is yes, then the decision will be avoided, even if causes grief among the families of hostages who are pressing for a still elusive hostage deal.

U.S.-Israel relations have taken a big hit in the last six months as well. This might seem strange given that U.S. support to Israel throughout the conflict has been unconditional. On the humanitarian front, the Biden administration continues to make its complaints to the Israeli government known. Yet U.S. policy itself hasn't really changed regardless of the daily lectures. To take the most visceral example: on the same day Israeli aircraft killed seven humanitarian aid workers from the World Central Kitchen charity, the administration approved another transfer of U.S. bombs to Israel.

Last week, however, Washington's shift in tone became notably tougher. There could very well be a policy shift too. Biden's call with Netanyahu on April 4, was different from all the others, if only because the president explicitly tied future U.S. policy toward Israeli concessions on humanitarian issues. As White House national security spokesman John Kirby articulated after the call, if there's no changes to their (Israel's) policy and their approaches, then there's going to have to be changes to ours." The Israelis took notice; a day later, Israel announced the opening of a new land corridor to northern Gaza for aid trucks, opened up Ashdod port to humanitarian supplies and accelerated shipments into Gaza at a pace that hasn't been seen since the bombing began.

Netanyahu remains bullish and confident that Hamas will be destroyed after a military campaign that is now Israel's longest since the 1980s.

Yet whether or not Israel achieves its maximalist objectives, the war is nothing short of a regional earthquake whose aftershocks will be felt for years, if not a generation, to come.

Other countries restrict breeding ‘Frankendogs.’ The US should follow suit

Lawmakers around the world are proposing legislation that would spare dogs “torture breeding”—reckless practices that intentionally produce deformities such as dangerously flattened faces or abnormally elongated spines. Germany began cracking down on torture breeding back in 1986, and a new bill would strengthen the country’s existing regulations. Austria, the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland have enacted similar laws—for good reason.

Dachshunds, whom Germany’s most recent proposal aims to help, have been selectively bred to have “skeletal anomalies.” Their lengthened spines and stubby legs often cause herniated discs and other painful back and joint problems that may require surgery and can even be fatal. These dogs may endure chronic pain their whole lives for nothing more than human whims about how they should look. And because dogs are stoic and often hide signs of pain or discomfort, their guardians may not even be aware of their suffering.

But dachshunds are far from alone. Bred for appearance without concern for their health, most, if not all, “purebred” dogs are predisposed to a number of medical issues. German shepherds and golden retrievers are prone to epilepsy and hip and elbow dysplasia. Studies have estimated that more than 90% of Cavalier King Charles spaniels have syringomyelia, an agonizingly painful condition in which their skulls are too small for their brains, forcing brain tissue to protrude through the base of the skull. French bulldogs, English bulldogs, pugs, Boston terriers, boxers and other flat-faced breeds are afflicted with brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome,

meaning that these dogs struggle just to breathe.

Breeding dogs for the nearly snoutless faces that some buyers consider desirable leaves them with crumpled, constricted airways and a multitude of health issues. Breathing-impaired breeds (BIB) are plagued with sleep apnea, gagging, vomiting, fainting, dental issues, eye problems caused by misshapen skulls and laryngeal collapse caused by chronic stress on the cartilage and strain on the heart from fighting for air—and that’s only a partial list.

It can be challenging or even life-threatening for BIB dogs to run, play with other dogs at the park or enjoy a game of fetch. Even going for a walk can be difficult—and in the summertime, it can be deadly. Because dogs release body heat primarily through panting, BIB dogs—who can’t breathe as efficiently as dogs with normal airways—are at least twice as likely to be stricken with heatstroke.

The inability to exercise predisposes BIBs to obesity. And according to a recent study at the University of California-Los Angeles, their facial deformities may even hamper these dogs’ ability to smell—a vital sense that dogs rely on to navigate the world as much as humans rely on eyesight.

That’s why last month, a lawmaker in New Hampshire proposed a bill that would have prohibited breeding dogs for malformed, flattened faces. It garnered wide support from veterinarians, animal advocacy groups and guardians of BIB dogs. The measure is temporarily tabled for additional research, but the outlook is promising.

All countries should enact laws right now to protect dogs from vanity and greed-driven breeding practices that deprive them of their

By DAPHNA NACHMINOVITCH
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Daphna Nachminovitch is the senior vice president of cruelty investigations for PETA.



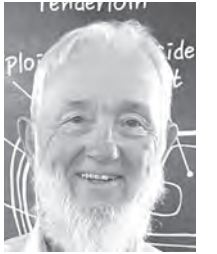
basic right to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. And with more than 70 million homeless dogs and cats in the U.S. at any given time, an end to all breeding would truly be a victory for the underdogs.

Red Caesarism-Prevarication Prism

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



“God doth not need either man’s work, or His own gifts; who best bear His mild yoke; they serve him best. His state is kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed. . .”

Author: John Milton (1608-1674) famous for a 10-book poem titled *Paradise Lost*. His languages included English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, Spanish, Italian, Old English, Dutch, and Aramaic. He’s considered one of history’s great poets.

MY LIES and BIBLE FRAUD MAKE ME LIKE GOD

When I realize how many of my lies are spread
Each day every day around the worldwide
How great is my talent! My lies need not hide
Their birth swells my megalomaniacal head
Serving my demagogic campaign to present
My bank account funds are low; that I can’t hide
I prevaricate more; all truth must be denied
Discovery of truth and facts I must prevent
I stumble and tell more lies; Every one I need
Lies are my best work; they are a historic gift
Godlike they’re food on which my followers feed
They bolster my bank account by fraud and grift
So online and at my rallies without any debate
My lies continue to make America great.

PROMISED RETRIBUTION IS NO SOLUTION

You will not see POTUS 45 at his trials crying
As a DA indicts Trump for lies, tapes, and fraud
Short on funds his campaign is slowly dying
Those believing in equal justice for all applaud
From court TV pundits commentary is flying
The court assesses aspects of the jury situation
Trump’s lawyers advise him complete denying
All sides experience more delay and frustrations
As court follows procedures in traditional style
Hopefully the jurors avoid lying temptations
When Trump’s lawyers get paychecks they smile
Witness credibility is checked for verification
Justice rendered involves legalistic gyration.

OPEN

From page 6

the defense, the prosecution and the press.

The Daily News and our competitors buy these transcripts, which can cost a few hundred bucks a day. But insanely no one is supposed to publish the transcripts or post them on the web.

The transcripts are public records, not copyrighted material like newspapers and books and music. Merchan, Wilson and Zayas have until Monday to fix this and let Americans read what is happening in the Trump trial.

Trump 1.0 made some world leaders laugh. Trump 2.0 terrifies them

Not a joke, as Joe Biden might say.

I’m talking about our country: America is no joke, no matter how many times Donald Trump claims it is.

One of his most obnoxious lies at every rally and in most interviews is his contention that, with Biden as president, a disrespectful world is laughing at us. Trump was at it again last week, at his most recent rally in Green Bay, Wis., claiming the United States is a global laughingstock.

“Joe Biden is not respected and Joe Biden is not feared” among the world’s nations, he told his fawning crowd. But once he, Trump, is reelected, “America will soon be respected again, very quickly respected, like never before.”

Like virtually all Trumpisms, this one is demonstrably false.

“Throughout Donald Trump’s presidency, publics around the world held the United States in low regard,” the Pew Research Center reported soon after he left office. Its 2020 survey found that among 13 allied nations, the share of people who had a favorable view of America was the lowest it had been in the two decades since Pew began asking the question. Good feelings toward the United States rebounded after Biden took office and remained favorable by a 2-to-1 ratio last year.

It’s almost laughable, Trump’s projection of his own unpopularity onto Biden. Except that too many Americans believe him.

As for foreign leaders, they’re not laughing at the United States or Trump. They’re openly fretting that the pro-authoritarian neo-isolationist whose crude credo is “America First” could return to power. Their agita is pretty astounding, really.

They don’t respect Trump at all, though they do fear him—the way you’d fear a madman at the nuclear button. President Richard Nixon sought leverage by making foreign counterparts think he was unstable; Trump actually is unstable. Foreign diplomats and some leaders don’t even mask their anxiety. They mostly speak anonymously, in case he actually regains power, but they speak nonetheless, ignoring norms against opining about another country’s election.

Trump’s former national security adviser John Bolton has said repeatedly that even the autocrats Trump admires—Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping, Kim Jong Un, among others—“think he’s a laughing fool.”

The Japanese have a phrase for their Trump trepidation, the Washington Post reported ahead of this week’s state visit by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. “‘Moshi-tora,’ “ according to the Post reporter in Tokyo, “encapsulates the mild panic brewing here. . . . It’s a shorthand for: What if Donald Trump wins?”

“It makes us nervous,” former Japanese lawmaker Miekio Nakabayashi told the Post. “We have to start thinking. That is the true purpose of ‘moshi-tora’: alarming ourselves to think about the unthinkable.”

Americans know the feeling.

Meanwhile, the Japanese edition of Newsweek had a cover drawing of Trump as a bloody, frightening apparition, calling

By JACKIE CALMES

Los Angeles Times

Jackie Calmes is an opinion columnist for the Los Angeles Times in Washington, D.C.



to mind either villain or vampire.

Friendly nations, including Japan, reliant for more than seven decades on a rules-based system of alliances led by the United States, justifiably worry that a reelected Trump will succeed at breaking those alliances. They fear a trade war and economic tremors from his promised tariffs. They expect he’d abandon Ukraine, demanding that it cede Crimea and the Donbas region to Russia and thereby encouraging Putin’s expansionism in Europe. They sweat his odd affinity for Xi in China and Kim in North Korea, as the two men threaten neighbors who count on the United States to be a counterweight.






On the sidelines at NATO’s 75th birthday commemoration last week in Brussels, attendees commiserated about a potential Trump 2.0, and talked about “Trump-proofing” the alliance generally and support for Ukraine specifically. How could they not after Trump crowed at a MAGA rally in February that he would encourage the Russians “to do whatever the hell they want” to NATO-member countries that in his view aren’t spending enough on their own defense?

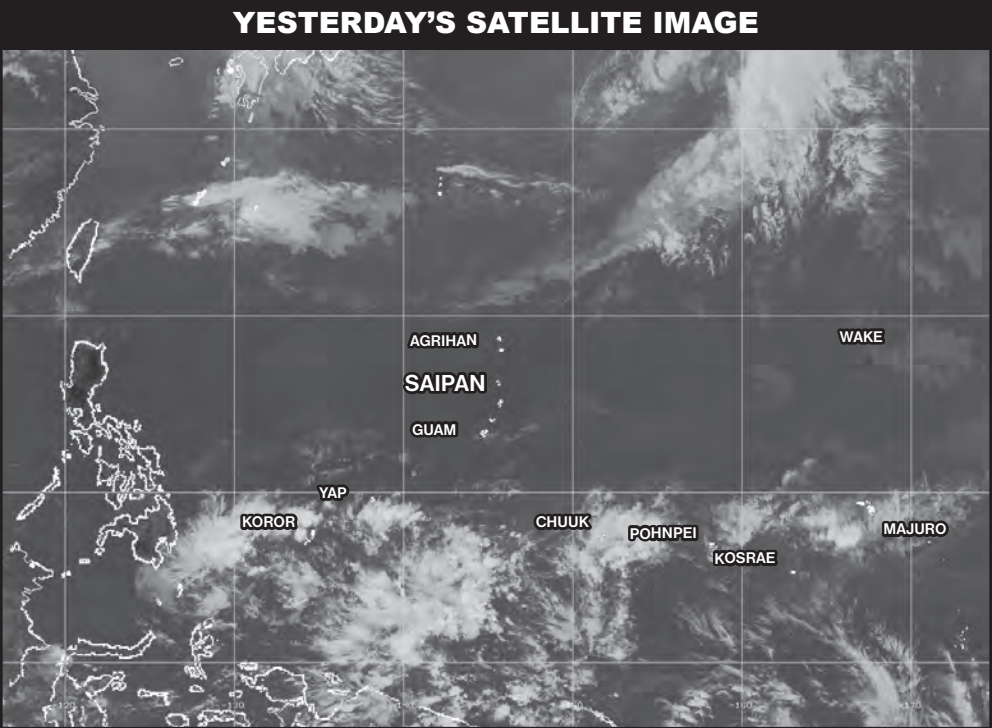
Trump’s claim that the world is laughing at us isn’t unique to Biden’s era. He’s been babbling that for years, since the administration of Republicans’ sainted Ronald Reagan. But he gets the target wrong. When the world has laughed at our expense, it was laughing, literally, at Trump.

Cue the blooper reels. In 2018, then-President Donald Trump was the joke at the United Nations General Assembly when he began his address by boasting that he’d achieved more in two years than any president in U.S. history. The delegates burst into guffaws. In 2019, the leaders of Britain, France, Canada and the Netherlands, along with Britain’s Princess Anne, were captured on a hot mic mocking Trump over cocktails during a NATO summit. Trump packed up and flew home—in time, had he wanted, to see the “Saturday Night Live” skit lampooning him as the goofball shunned by the cool kids in the NATO cafeteria.

Such yuks at Trump’s expense were easier then—before Jan. 6, Ukraine and his many former advisers’ post-presidency alarms about the danger he poses should he get back in the White House. Experience is a teacher: Trump is no longer a laughing matter.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly clear with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of showers.	
88°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery shows partly cloudy skies across most of the Marianas this morning with gentle to moderate trade winds. Altimetry shows seas between 5 and 7 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Palau	Rain Shower	86° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	91° / 81°	
Chuuk	Rain	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87° / 79°	
Kosrae	Showers in the Vicinity	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Thursday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:58 AM	12:22 PM
Wednesday	-	1:44 AM	1:15 PM
Thursday	-	2:25 AM	2:06 PM
Friday	-	3:02 AM	2:53 PM
Saturday	-	3:36 AM	3:40 PM

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Drizzle	71° / 56°	
Beijing	Fair	70° / 54°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	86° / 76°	
Honolulu	Showers	82° / 72°	
London	Mostly Sunny	55° / 37°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 55°	
Manila	Fair	97° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	75° / 63°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
New York	Clear	72° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	75° / 60°	
Paris	Sunny	57° / 41°	
Busan	Rain	72° / 58°	
Rome	Showers	70° / 48°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 52°	
San Francisco	Sunny	68° / 48°	
Seoul	Rain	85° / 60°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 59°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81° / 50°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:33 AM	High Tide	1.69	
8:58 AM	Low Tide	1.31	
12:29 PM	High Tide	1.47	
8:32 PM	Low Tide	0.17	

Business

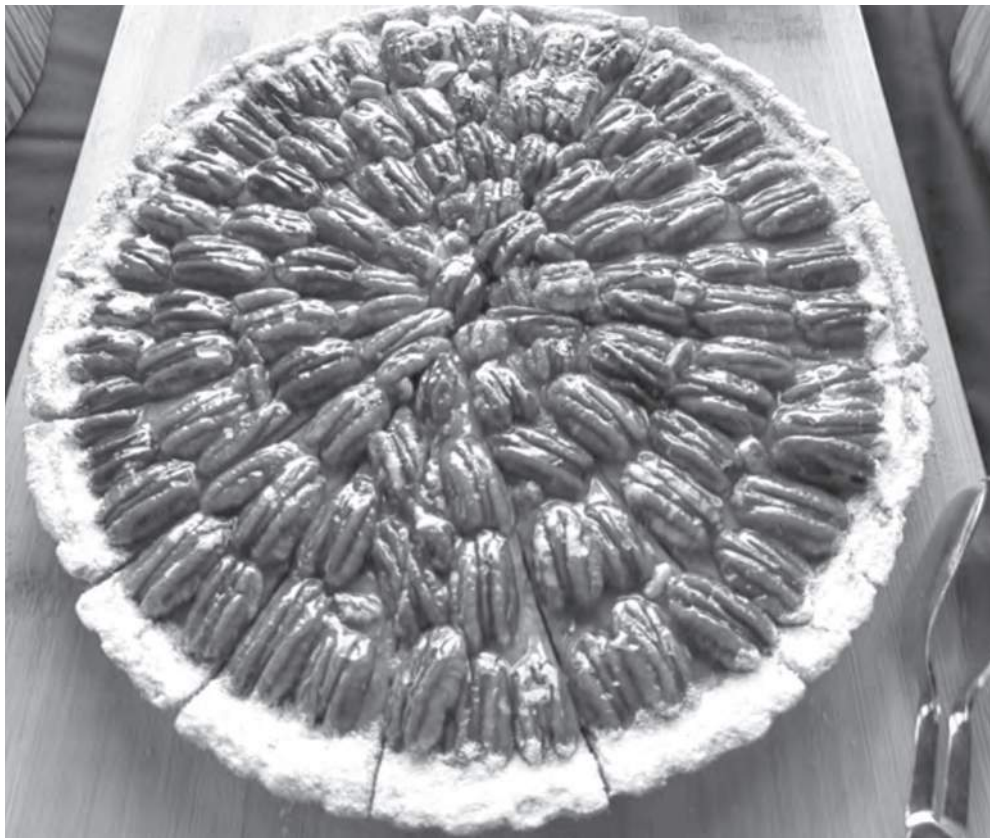
Plant-based, vegan bakery delights during Giovanni's Sunday Brunch

Over the years, there has been a noticeable shift toward healthier dietaries along a growing focus on personal wellness. This change of personal wellbeing is reflected in the dietary choices made by individuals, where the emphasis is to consume consciously healthier. People are interested on nutritional facts and now increasingly on the origin of its isolated food items.

As part of Hyatt's commitment to advance self-care, the culinary team at Hyatt Regency Saipan has been proactive in addressing the changing preferences and dietary restrictions of guests, yet being able to achieve an authentic gastronomical experience.

The team has been empathetic to requests for vegan and plant-based cuisine, ensuring that these options are readily available for guests. This approach was initiated by Jody O'Sullivan, Hyatt's chef de cuisine—pastry and a vegan himself. O'Sullivan is now sharing his believes and creativity along plant-based bakeries and desserts at Giovanni's Sunday Brunch.

"Health and wellness-based foods have been around for a while now...the plant-based desserts are not any "healthier" than their regular counterparts,



HYATT

Hyatt Regency Saipan chef de cuisine Jody O'Sullivan's plant-based pecan pie.

but that is not the point of a dessert, it is supposed to be an indulgence," he said.

"The whole pastry landscape is changing and adapting, however, being able to still offer quality desserts without the need for animal products is the biggest challenge facing

the pastry industry at the moment. Being able to offer these desserts now becomes more important so that our guests can understand that the quality of what we serve is going to be no different to a traditional recipe. We are changing ingredients so that we can create the best pos-

sible experience on a consistent basis," he continued.

In addition, "sustainability is something we need to be really conscious of in the pastry. As prices of goods, shipping costs and utilities continue to rise, we need to look at how much our products are valued

and, wherever we can, provide a quality alternative... With the continuous global climate change, things that are usually readily available for standard desserts are already more expensive and harder to come by," he concludes.

According to O'Sullivan, a plant-based dessert is a dish prepared using no animal products whatsoever. "Ingredients such as butter, eggs, cream, milk, etc. are replaced by plant-based alternatives like soy milk or plant-based oil," he said.

At Easter Sunday Brunch, one of the desserts that O'Sullivan presented was a home-made pecan pie.

"The traditional ingredients in pecan pie contain both eggs and butter. Eggs bind the ingredients in the pie together owing to being high in protein, fat, and cholesterol. Butter adds richness and mouthfeel."

"We needed to replace these functions with plant-based ingredients such as tofu, a really high-protein food, and substituted olive oil for butter. They are simple replacements that do not change the quality of what we offer but make them more sustainable and consistent."

Plant-based dessert offerings at Giovanni's started early this year. "Every week there is one plant-based item our guests can enjoy from. It is my passion to share my recipes with our guests but also with my team. We will keep growing our repertoire with a rotation of cookies, cakes, crème brûlées, and pies," O'Sullivan added.

Giovanni's Sunday Brunch highlights international and local cuisine with free-flow of sparkling wine and beer every Sunday, 11am-2pm. For reservations, visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com. (PR)

Bird flu is spreading to more farm animals

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP HEALTH WRITER

A bird flu outbreak in U.S. dairy cows has grown to affect more than two dozen herds in eight states, just weeks after the nation's largest egg producer found the virus in its chickens.

Health officials stress that the risk to the public is low and that the U.S. food supply remains safe and stable.

"At this time, there continues to be no concern that this circumstance poses a risk to consumer health, or that it affects the safety of the interstate commercial milk supply," the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said in a statement.

Here's what you need to know about bird flu and food:

As of Friday, the strain of bird flu that has killed millions of wild birds in recent years has been found in at least 26 dairy herds in eight U.S. states: Idaho, Kansas, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas and South Dakota.

The virus, known as Type A H5N1, has been detected in a range of mammals over the last few years, but this is the first time it has been found in cattle, according to federal health and animal agencies. Genetic analysis of the virus does not show that it has changed to spread more easily in people, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said.

Agriculture officials in at least 17 states have restricted imports of dairy cattle from states where the virus has been detected, but, so far, government agencies say it's had lit-

tle effect on commercial milk production. Officials believe cows likely have been infected by exposure to wild birds, but said cow-to-cow spread "cannot be ruled out."

» Are milk and eggs safe?

Farmers are testing cows that show symptoms of infection, including sharply reduced milk supply and lethargy. Animals that show signs or test positive for illness are being separated from other animals on the farms. The animals appear to recover within two weeks.

U.S. egg producers are watching the situation closely after bird flu was detected in chickens in Texas and Michigan. Millions of birds have been killed, but the FDA said the risk of affected eggs getting into the retail market or causing infections in humans is low because of federal inspections and other safeguards.

Scientists say there's no evidence to suggest that people can contract the virus by consuming food that's been pasteurized, or heat-treated—or properly cooked.

"It's not a food safety concern," said Lee-Ann Jaykus, an emeritus food microbiologist and virologist at North Carolina State University.

Two people in U.S. have been infected with bird flu to date. A Texas dairy worker who was in close contact with an infected cow recently developed a mild eye infection and has recovered. In 2022, a prison inmate in a work program caught it while killing infected birds at a Colorado poultry farm. His only symptom was fatigue, and he recovered.

Faced with possibly paying for news, Google removes links to CA news sites for some users

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Google on Friday began removing California news websites from some people's search results, a test that acted as a threat should the state Legislature pass a law requiring the search giant to pay media companies for linking to their content.

Google announced the move in a blog post on Friday, calling it a "short-term test for a small percentage of users ... to measure the impact of the legislation on our product experience." The company said it also would pause new investments in the California news industry, including the partnership initiative with news organizations and its product licensing program.

"By helping people find news stories, we help publishers of all sizes grow their audiences at no cost to them. (This bill) would up-end that model," Jaffer Zaidi, Google's vice president for global news partnerships, wrote in the blog post.

The California Legislature is considering a bill that would require tech giants like Google, Facebook and Microsoft to pay a certain percentage of advertising revenue to media companies for linking to their content. How much

the companies would have to pay would be decided by a panel of three judges through an arbitration process.

The bill aims to stop the loss of journalism jobs, which have been disappearing rapidly as legacy media companies have struggled to profit in the digital age. More than 2,500 newspapers have closed in the U.S. since 2005, according to Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. California has lost more than 100 news organizations in the past decade, according to Democratic Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, the bill's author.

"This is a bill about basic fairness—it's about ensuring that platforms pay for the content they repurpose," Wicks said. "We are committed to continuing negotiations with Google and all other stakeholders to secure a brighter future for California journalists and ensure that the lights of democracy stay on."

The state Assembly passed the bill last year with bipartisan support despite fierce opposition and lobbying efforts from big tech companies. The California Senate would have to pass it later this year for it to become law.

Supporters said the legislation would help level the

playing field between news publishers and large digital platforms and provide a "lifeline" to local news organizations, which rely heavily on Google's search engine to distribute its content in the digital era. While Google's search engine has become the hub of a digital advertisement empire that generates more than \$200 billion annually, news publishers saw their advertising revenues nosedive significantly in the last few decades.

But opponents, including Google, Meta and some independent newsrooms, call the legislation a "link tax" that would primarily benefit out-of-state newspaper chains and hedge funds and further decimate local news organizations. Richard Gingras, Google's vice president of news, also told state lawmakers, in a hearing last December, that Google already made significant contributions to support local journalism, pointing to the tech giant's financial grants and training to nearly 1,000 local publications in 2023, among other programs.

Google's search engine should be seen as "the largest newsstand on Earth," Gingras said, where it helps connect users to news websites more than 24 billion times per

month. Google's search engine holds an estimated 90% share of the market.

"This traffic in turn helps publishers make money by showing ads or attracting new subscribers," he said, adding that it's estimated that each click on a link from Google is worth 5 cents to 7 cents to a news website.

Google's decision to temporarily remove links to news websites is not a new tactic for tech giants to use when pushing back on unwanted legislation. When Canada and Australia passed similar laws to promote journalism, Meta—the company that owns Facebook and Instagram—responded by blocking content from Canadian publishers on its sites in Canada. The company made similar threats to U.S. Congress and California lawmakers last year. Google had threatened to do the same in Canada. But in November, Google agreed to pay 100 million Canadian dollars (\$74 million U.S. dollars) to the news industry.

News publishers would suffer and could lay off more journalists if Google completely blocks content from its search, but experts say Google also would take a financial hit without news content.

World

US works to prevent an escalation across Mideast as Biden pushes Israel to show restraint

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States on Sunday highlighted its role in helping Israel thwart Iran's aerial attack as President Joe Biden convened leaders of the Group of Seven countries in an effort to prevent a wider regional escalation and coordinate a global rebuke of Tehran.

The U.S. assisted Israel in shooting down dozens of drones and missiles fired by Iran on Saturday in what was the first time it had launched a direct military assault on Israel. Israeli authorities said 99% of the inbound weapons were shot

down without causing any significant damage.

U.S. officials said that despite the high interception rate, Iran's intent was to "destroy and cause casualties" and that if successful, the strikes would have caused an "uncontrollable" escalation across the Mideast. U.S. officials said Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in an effort to contain tensions, that Washington would not participate in any offensive action against Iran, and the president made "very clear" to Netanyahu "that we do have to think

carefully and strategically" about risks of escalation.

The push to encourage Israel to show restraint mirrored ongoing American efforts to curtail Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza, which is now in its seventh month, and to do more to protect civilian lives in the territory.

While the U.S. and its allies were preparing for days for such an attack, the launches were at the "high end" of what was anticipated, according to the officials, who were not authorized to publicly discuss the matter and spoke on

condition of anonymity.

At one point, at least 100 ballistic missiles from Iran were in the air simultaneously with just minutes of flight time to Israel, the officials said. Biden and senior officials monitored the firings and interception attempts in real time in the White House Situation Room. The officials said there was "relief" in the room once they saw that the missile defense efforts had succeeded.

The Pentagon said U.S. Central Command and European Command forces destroyed more than 80 attack

drones and at least six ballistic missiles intended to strike Israel from Iran and Yemen.

"At my direction, to support the defense of Israel, the U.S. military moved aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to the region over the course of the past week," Biden said in a statement late Saturday. "Thanks to these deployments and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles."

Administration officials said the call demonstrated that despite differences over the war in Gaza, the U.S.

commitment to Israel's defense was "ironclad" and that the U.S. would mount a similar effort again if needed.

The officials rejected the notion that Iran intentionally gave Israel and the U.S. time to prepare for an attack, but said they took advantage of the time Iran needed before it was ready to launch the assault to prepare their response. The officials said Iran passed word to the U.S. while the attack was unfolding late Saturday that what was seen was the totality of their response. The message was sent through the Swiss government since the two countries don't have direct diplomatic ties.

Biden says US support for PH, Japan defense 'ironclad'

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden said Thursday that U.S. defense commitment to Pacific allies was "ironclad" as he gathered Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the White House in the midst of growing concern about provocative Chinese military action in the Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. and the Philippines have had a mutual treaty in place for more than 70 years. Biden's forceful re-

inforcement of the American commitment comes in the midst of persistent skirmishes between the Philippine and Chinese coast guards in the disputed South China Sea.

"The United States defense commitments to Japan and to the Philippines are ironclad. They're ironclad," Biden said as he began three-way talks at the White House with Kishida and Marcos. "As I said before, any attack on Philippine aircraft, vessels or armed forces in the South

China Sea would invoke our mutual defense treaty."

Relations between China and the Philippines have been repeatedly tested by confrontations involving the two nations' coast guard vessels in the disputed South China Sea. Chinese coast guard ships also regularly approach disputed Japanese-controlled East China Sea islands near Taiwan.

The so-called "gray-zone" harassment by China has included shining military-grade lasers at the Philippine Coast

Guard, firing water cannons at vessels and ramming into Philippine ships near the Second Thomas Shoal, which both Manila and Beijing claim. In 1999, Manila intentionally ran a World War II-era ship aground on the shoal, establishing a permanent military presence there.

Biden, in a wide-ranging phone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week, raised concerns about China's operations in the South China Sea, including efforts to impede the Philippines from resupplying its forces on the Second Thomas Shoal.

WORLD BRIEFS

House Speaker Mike Johnson says he will push for aid to Israel and Ukraine this week

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Mike Johnson said Sunday he will try to advance wartime aid for Israel this week as he attempts the difficult task of winning House approval for a national security package that also includes funding for Ukraine and allies in Asia. Johnson, R-La., is already under immense political pressure from his fellow GOP lawmakers as he tries to stretch between the Republican Party's divided support for helping Kyiv defend itself from Moscow's invasion. The Republican speaker has sat for two months on a \$95 billion supplemental package that would send support to the U.S. allies, as well as provide humanitarian aid for civilians in Ukraine and Gaza and funding to replenish U.S. weapons provided to Taiwan. The attack by Iran on Israel early Sunday further ratcheted up the pressure on Johnson, but also gave him an opportunity to underscore the urgency of approving the funding. Johnson told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" that he and Republicans "understand the necessity of standing with Israel" and he would try this week to advance the aid. "The details of that package are being put together right now," he said. "We're looking at the options and all these supplemental issues." Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer at a news conference also said that President Joe Biden held a phone call Sunday with the top Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate, including Johnson. The New York Democrat said there was consensus "among all the leaders that we had to help Israel and help Ukraine, and now hopefully we can work that out and get this done next week."

Officer, bystanders hailed for confronting and stopping a man who killed 6 at a Sydney shopping mall

SYDNEY (AP)—A police officer and several bystanders are being hailed for running "towards danger" to confront the attacker who stabbed and killed six people at a suburban Sydney shopping center. The shopping mall, one of the country's busiest and near the world-famous Bondi Beach, was a hub of activity on Saturday afternoon when 40-year-old Joel Cauchi used a knife to kill five women and one man. He also injured at least a dozen others, including a 9-month-old baby whose mother died during the attack, before a police officer shot him dead. New South Wales Police confirmed Sunday Cauchi had a history of mental illness and investigators weren't treating the attack as terrorism-related. The number would have been far higher, according to NSW Premier Chris Minns who on Sunday praised "the ordinary members of the public that cornered and confronted a murderer in the Westfield Shopping Centre, showing what I would call instinctive bravery under terrible circumstances." Talking to reporters while standing outside the shopping mall, Minns underscored the role played by Inspector Amy Scott—the first emergency responder on the scene—who shot and killed Cauchi and has since been widely lauded as a hero. "(Scott)... ran towards danger and showed professionalism and bravery and without a shadow of a doubt, saved many, many lives in the last 24 hours," he said.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese also praised Scott in a press conference in Canberra: "The wonderful inspector who ran into danger by herself and removed the threat that was there to others, without thinking about the risks to herself," he said.

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Life & Style

Divisive? Not for moviegoers. ‘Civil War’ declares victory at box office.

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Alex Garland’s provocative “Civil War” didn’t only ignite the discourse. The film also inspired audiences to go to the cinemas this weekend where it surpassed expectations and earned \$25.7 million in ticket sales in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It’s the biggest R-rated opening of the year to date and a record for A24, the studio behind films like “Everything Everywhere All At

Once” and “The Iron Claw.” “Civil War” also unseated “Godzilla x Kong” from its perch atop the box office. The titan movie from Warner Bros. had held the No. 1 spot for the past two weekends.

“Civil War,” starring Kirsten Dunst, Wagner Moura and Cailee Spaeny as front-line journalists in the near future covering a devastating conflict in the U.S. and trying to make their way to Washington, D.C. The story, written by Garland, who is also the



This image released by A24 shows Kirsten Dunst in a scene from “Civil War.”

mind behind “Ex Machina” and “Annihilation,” imagines a U.S. in which California and Texas have united against a president who has disbanded the FBI and given himself a third term.

Though entirely fictional, “Civil War” has been inspiring debates since the first trailer that have extended beyond the musings of film critics and traditional reviews. This weekend, The New York Times ran two opinion pieces related to the movie, one by Stephen Marche and

another by Michelle Goldberg. There were also pieces on CNN and Politico.

Going into the weekend, projections pegged the film to debut in the \$15 to \$24 million range. The studio said “Civil War” overperformed in markets “from LA to El Paso.” The data analytics company Entelligence reported that the film has attracted over 1.7 million patrons this weekend and that the top three markets were Los Angeles, New York and Dallas.

Iowa star Caitlin Clark makes surprise appearance on ‘Saturday Night Live’

NEW YORK (AP)—Live from New York, it’s Caitlin Clark!

The Iowa star made a surprise appearance on “Saturday Night Live” during the show’s “Weekend Update” segment.

She said she first heard about the possibility at the Final Four although discussions had been ongoing for a couple of weeks.

“I didn’t know the script until I showed up and saw it, and was like this is very good,” Clark told the AP on Sunday. “Set them straight about women’s sports was pretty phenomenal. The crowd was great. Way more nervous than I get for a basketball game. A bucket list item.”

The Iowa star is in New York for the WNBA draft on Monday night, when she is expected to be the top pick by the Indiana Fever.

The NCAA Division I all-



Iowa guard Caitlin Clark reacts to fans during an Iowa women’s basketball team celebration, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, in Iowa City, Iowa.

time leading scorer showed up after anchor Michael Che made a joke about Iowa retiring her jersey. Clark got the last laugh as Che then read some more jokes that Clark said she wrote that made fun of the comedian.

“A lot of cast members came up to me and were so ex-

cited I was there and said they always watched us,” Clark said. “Before they pushed me in on the chair my heart was beating through my chest.”

The Iowa native then delivered a heartfelt message about her basketball future, thanking many of the great players who came before her.

Survivors of 2017 Ariana Grande concert bombing take legal action against UK intelligence agency

LONDON (AP)—More than 250 survivors of the bombing that killed 22 people at a 2017 Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, are taking legal action against Britain’s domestic intelligence agency, lawyers said.

Lawyers from three law firms said Sunday they have submitted a group claim on behalf of more than 250 clients to the U.K.’s investigatory powers tribunal. They said they could not provide further details because it was an ongoing legal matter.

Suicide bomber Salman Abedi set up a knapsack bomb in Manchester Arena at the end of Grande’s concert on May 22, 2017, as thousands of young fans were leaving. More than 100 people were injured, many of them children and teenagers. Abedi died in the explosion.

An official inquiry reported last year that Britain’s domes-



A man stands next to flowers for the victims of a bombing at St. Ann’s Square in central Manchester, England, May 26, 2017.

tic intelligence agency, MI5, didn’t act swiftly enough on key information and missed a significant opportunity to prevent the bombing, the deadliest extremist attack in the U.K. in recent years.

Abedi had been a “subject of interest” to MI5 officials in 2014, but his case was closed shortly after because he was deemed to be low risk.

The report also found that one MI5 officer admitted they considered intelligence about Abedi to be a possible national security concern, but didn’t discuss it with colleagues quickly enough.

Ken McCallum, the head of MI5, said in a rare televised statement that he was “profoundly sorry” his agency was unable to prevent the attack.

Generous gift isn't enough for mom who asks for more

DEAR ABBY: I’m a professional, well-educated adult who moved back home because of concerns about my father’s health as well as having landed a much better job. As an extra perk, I’ve been able to save money to pay toward my student loans, as well as spoil my parents a bit as they grow older.

I recently gifted my parents (for the second time) their dream vacation. They loved it the first time and never imagined they’d be able to do it twice. Because my parents still have a minor child who cannot remain alone, I am choosing, as I did last time, to use my personal vacation time to babysit. My mother has been planning the details of her upcoming trip and has now asked me to take more time off work so they can have a road trip after their vacation.

Abby, I am already draining every bit of my time off for their weeklong vacation and will not be able to have a vacation myself until later in the year when I accrue more time. I know she’s requesting this to make the trip more fun for my father. Although I am a generous and patient person, this has left me feeling almost speechless, a bit unappreciated and frustrated. Am I overreacting? Should I find a way to extend their trip?

LIMITED IN OHIO

DEAR LIMITED: The answer to both of your questions

is **NO**. Your mother apparently doesn’t appreciate how generous you have been in providing these vacations for her and your father. If she wants to extend their holiday, she should make her own arrangements for your sibling to be supervised if she and your dad won’t be available to do it themselves. Shame on her for trying to foist that responsibility onto you.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I lost my darling wife recently. Her death was a shock to everyone. She was placed on life support for a short period while the medical staff performed tests to determine the extent of her injuries. When it became apparent that she would spend the rest of her life in a vegetative state, no decisions had to be made by her family or by me.

My wife had an advance directive in place stating she did not want to remain living in this condition. I was extremely fortunate in that no one in her family wanted to contest the document. As hard as it was for me to discontinue life support, I knew it was what she wanted. She passed peacefully, quietly and quickly.

Abby, please encourage your readers to make the time and make the effort to have an advance directive drawn up, whatever their desires may be. It was my wife’s last gift to me, and I will be forever grateful for it.

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



REMEMBERING HER IN ARIZONA

DEAR REMEMBERING HER: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your wife. I appreciate you taking the time to share this important information with my readers and me. Your letter serves as a reminder that all end-of-life documents should be reviewed regularly to be sure they reflect one’s current thinking.

■■■

To order “How to Write Letters for All Occasions,” send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

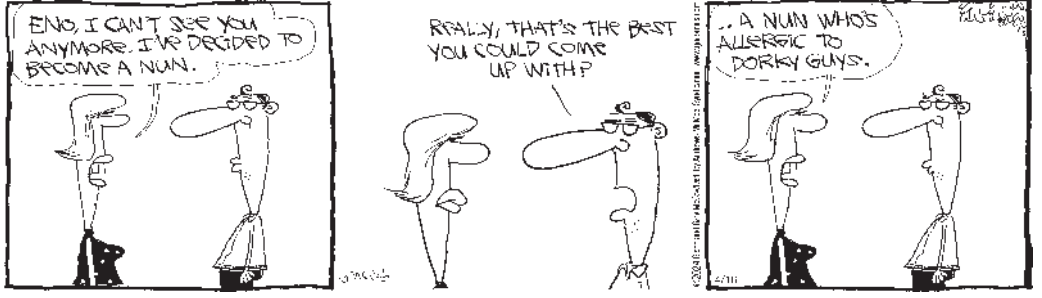
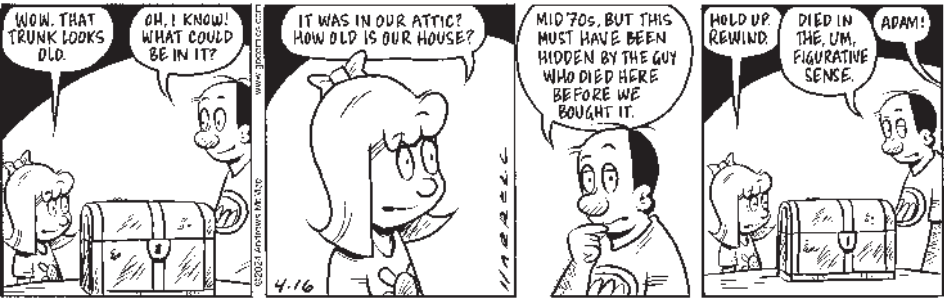


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Apple computer 5 "Didn't I tell you?" 8 Umps 12 Metric weight 13 Sounds of hesitation 14 Alike (Fr.) 15 Yale students 16 Mexican entree 18 City near Oakland 20 Cable company device 21 Mineral suffix 22 Japanese "yes" 23 Pre-prandial prayer 26 Erik of "CHiPs" 30 "Alley —" 31 Curator's focus 32 "— Way" (Sinatra biography) 33 Onion variety 36 Equine comment

38 Choice words? 39 Little lie 40 Twist dry 43 Philanthropist 47 Spanish estate house 49 Acute 50 In — (shortly) 51 Deep hole 52 Part of Q.E.D. 53 Mother of Helios 54 Motor homes 55 Male children

2 Pepper dispenser 3 Others (Lat.) 4 Universal 5 Soft leather 6 Austen novel 7 Mentalist's gift 8 "The Bathes" painter 9 "Zounds!" 10 Tire 11 Bridge coup 17 Latin 101 word 19 Summer in Arles 22 "The buck stops here" monogram

23 Sailor 24 Fish eggs 25 Earth Day mo. 26 Historic time 27 Sashimi fish 28 Use a shovel 29 Fire sign? 31 Billboards 34 "Friends" friend 35 Desire 36 Zilch 37 Battery-powered two-wheelers 39 Daring deeds 40 "Huh?" 41 Impetuous 42 Frozen drink brand 43 1504, in old Rome 44 Roman emperor 45 Campus bigwig 46 Picnic interlopers 48 "Morning Edition" aier

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Cryer, 59; Martin Lawrence, 59; Ellen Barkin, 70; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 77.

Happy Birthday: Scatter your energy in directions that support personal growth and positive change. Diversify, and participate in events and activities that encourage you to stretch your imagination and physically challenge yourself. Push yourself to do more and to expand your chances to advance financially. Make peace and love your priorities, and participate in causes of concern. Learn to take better care of yourself mentally, physically and economically. Your numbers are 4, 17, 21, 26, 34, 43, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A little adventure will spark your interest and broaden your awareness regarding possibilities. Use your imagination, and it will trigger an impulse to participate in something that concerns you. Your input can and will make a difference. Stop dreaming and start doing. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotions and brute force will backfire. Don't make a scene when you can accomplish something worthwhile by working quietly toward your goal. Sharing less and doing more will help you reduce nonsense that can slow you down. Shoot for the stars and keep the momentum going. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't count on others to handle your responsibilities. Hedge your bets, do for yourself and don't make a scene or draw attention to yourself. Change can be good if you implement and secure what you want without interference. Personal growth, self-love and kindness are favored. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put a budget in place. Delegate what and who goes where and how you want things done. Show your leadership ability by using your creative input to put your unique spin on whatever you pursue. Protect your ideas, health and money. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Energy is the answer to get things done. Pursue with a passion, and you won't be disappointed. Aggressive action with a smile and good intentions will give you the upper hand when you face a daunting challenge. Trust and believe in yourself. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Learn and adjust as you go. Embrace change, gain wisdom and put your time, effort and energy into whatever makes the most sense. Partnerships and personal gains are favored if you stay focused on success. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Participate and make a difference. Refrain from waffling when you must take charge. Show your strength of character and implement changes that improve your life, augment your position and grab the attention of those who can help make your dreams come true. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Change begins with you. Step up and make things happen. Refuse to let what others do stand in your way. Live life your way, learn as you go and continue until you reach your desired results. Patience, time and energy will pay off. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Being well-informed will keep you out of trouble. Stay calm if someone chooses a different path or creates chaos or confusion. Research is your guide to making the best decision. A passionate stance

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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will ward off cheaters, fakers and liars. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tidy up, organize and make your world more efficient. Don't let outsiders mess things up or cause you to question what you are doing. Stay on track and put your energy and dedication into what matters to you, and positive change and opportunity will unfold. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Tap into what you enjoy doing most and turn it into something tangible. How you portray yourself to others will affect how they treat you. A positive attitude will make you the go-to person and confidant in your circle of friends. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An undercover approach to what you pursue will make it easier to achieve your goal. Take precautions to ensure you have stuck to the rules, regulations and protocol necessary, and consider how to make needed adjustments. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are captivating, funny and persuasive. You are energetic and helpful.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	8			5			6	7	
	3	7			2				
		9		1	7	5	2		
3			7	9			5	2	
8	2				3	7	9	1	
7	9					8	3		
	5	2				9	8		
4						6		5	
9		3			1	2	7		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	2	3	9	5	1	6	8	4
5	4	6	2	7	8	3	1	9
1	9	8	6	3	4	7	5	2
9	8	4	5	6	7	2	3	1
2	1	7	8	9	3	5	4	6
6	3	5	1	4	2	8	9	7
8	5	1	4	2	6	9	7	3
3	6	9	7	1	5	4	2	8
4	7	2	3	8	9	1	6	5

Difficulty: ★★ 4/16
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MANGO ICE CREAM Solution: 7 letters

S	E	T	S	N	T	G	E	Y	G	N	A	T	D	S
P	P	I	R	E	D	N	E	L	B	T	E	R	W	D
O	I	U	B	Z	Y	R	L	O	D	A	E	E	T	
O	R	R	C	O	A	K	U	P	A	T	E	S	W	N
C	O	F	M	R	S	L	P	M	S	T	N	S	W	I
S	N	A	T	F	E	I	E	U	E	E	O	E	O	M
Y	H	R	L	E	N	M	C	N	D	K	K	D	L	I
C	C	O	U	G	O	M	E	N	E	A	N	E	L	X
E	A	I	S	H	C	D	O	F	C	H	A	N	E	T
T	E	S	U	D	C	C	I	M	L	S	G	N	Y	U
A	P	P	L	J	H	T	E	P	A	A	E	A	M	R
R	I	O	P	P	I	H	W	R	S	D	V	C	A	E
E	C	O	L	A	L	L	I	N	A	V	R	O	E	S
A	E	N	U	T	L	E	M	A	T	I	N	A	R	G
T	R	O	P	I	C	A	L	W	E	H	S	A	C	S

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Aerate, Blender, Cake, Canned, Cardamom, Cashew, Chamoy, Chill, Chum, Cold, Condensed, Cones, Creamy, Cups, Custard, Dessert, Dips, Flavors, Float, Frozen, Fruit, Gelato, Granita, Homemade, Juicy, Melt, Milk, Mint, Mixtures, Pulp, Purée, Recipe, Ripe, Scoop, Shake, Sorbet, Spoon, Sweetened, Tandy, Toppings, Tray, Tropical, Vanilla, Vegan, Whip, Yellow
Last Friday's Answer: Coast Guard
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 62 through 77, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Pritchard scores career-high 38 as Celtics beat Wizards



BOSTON (AP)—Payton Pritchard scored a career-high 38 points and the NBA-best Boston Celtics rested their entire starting lineup in a 132-122 victory over the Washington Wizards on Sunday in the teams' regular-season finale.

Svi Mykhailiuk added 26 points and Sam Hauser 16 for Boston, which sat Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, Kristaps Porzingis, Derrick White and Jrue Holiday along with top reserve Al Horford.

Pritchard added 12 assists with nine rebounds. In last year's final regular-season game, the 6-foot-1 Pritchard had a triple-double with 30 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists, joining Larry Bird and John Havlicek as the only Celtics with at least 30 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists in a game.

The Celtics (64-18) finished their 15th season in club history with 60 or more wins, the most recent in 2008 when they captured the NBA title.

PACERS 157, HAWKS 115

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Myles Turner had 31 points and Pascal Siakam scored 28 as Indiana beat Atlanta and avoided falling into the play-in tournament.

Indiana secured at least the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference with a dominant regular-season finale. The Pacers shot 65% and made 19 of 36 3-pointers.

The 157 points matched the Pacers' highest-scoring game since they joined the NBA in 1976. The record was set earlier this season in their 157-152 win in the In-Season Tournament on Nov. 21.

KNICKS 120, BULLS 119, OT

NEW YORK (AP)—Jalen Brunson capped one of the best regular seasons in franchise history with his 11th 40-point game, carrying New York into the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference with an overtime victory over Chicago.

The Knicks finished 50-32, their best season since going 54-28 and also earning a No. 2 seed in 2012-13. They moved past Milwaukee after the Bucks lost earlier Sunday in Orlando, and will await the winner of the play-in game between Philadelphia and Miami on Wednesday.

Brunson finished with 40 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and tied Patrick Ewing for the second-most 40-point games in one season by a Knicks player. Hall of Famer Bernard King did it 13 times in 1984-85, when he set a franchise record with 32.9 points per game.



Boston Celtics guard Payton Pritchard, left, drives against Washington Wizards guard Jared Butler, front right, in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, April 14, 2024, in Boston.

HEAT 118, RAPTORS 103

MIAMI (AP)—Thomas Bryant scored 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 18 points and Miami tuned up for a trip to the play-in tournament by beating Toronto.

Bam Adebayo and Tyler Herro each scored 17 for Miami, while Jimmy Butler scored 15, Caleb Martin 12 and Delon Wright 11 for the Heat.

Wright also had five steals for Miami, which ended 46-36—good enough for only the No. 8 spot in the East. The Heat will go to Philadelphia to open the play-in tournament on Wednesday, with the winner securing the No. 7 seed.

The loser of the Miami-Philadelphia game will play host to either Atlanta or Chicago on Friday to determine the No. 8 seed and who'll face No. 1 seed Boston in Round 1.

HORNETS 120, CAVALIERS 110

CLEVELAND (AP)—Nick Smith Jr. scored a season-high 24 points and Steve Clifford won his coaching farewell as Charlotte rallied to beat playoff-bound Cleveland.

Max Strus had 14 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double for Cleveland, which rested All-Star shooting guard Donovan Mitchell, point guard Darius Garland and sixth man Caris LeVert.

The Cavaliers will have home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs, but left the floor without knowing their opponent. They lost 12 of their final 19 regular-season games to finish 48-34.

76ERS 107, NETS 86

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—After eight straight wins to end the regular season, Philadelphia is set for their first play-in tourna-

ment after a win over Brooklyn.

The Sixers won their eighth straight game and appeared to fall just shy of earning the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference, meaning they are set to host the Miami Heat in the play-in tournament Wednesday in Philadelphia.

The 76ers expect to have Embiid, the two-time NBA scoring champion, in the lineup for the postseason.

MAGIC 113, BUCKS 88

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Paolo Banchero had 26 points and 11 rebounds, Jonathan Isaac had 10 points, eight rebounds and three blocks in his second start of the season and Orlando avoided a play-in spot with a win over Milwaukee, which left them in fifth place in the Eastern Conference.

Khris Middleton and Bobby Portis scored 17 points each for the Bucks. Damian Lillard scored 16 points on 2 for 14 shooting for Milwaukee, whose playoff position was pending results of other season finales.

Isaac started at center in place of Wendell Carter Jr., who had back spasms but played 14 minutes off the bench. Isaac played 26 minutes, one short of his season high.

ROCKETS 116, CLIPPERS 105

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Cam Whitmore scored 21 points and Houston beat playoff-bound Los Angeles to salvage a .500 season.

Amen Thompson had a triple-double of 18 points, 11 rebounds and a career-high 10 assists for the already eliminated Rockets, who finished 41-41 after losing six of their last nine games.

The Pacific Division champion and fourth-seeded Clippers are headed to the playoffs, where they'll meet Luka Donic and the Dallas Mavericks in the

first round next weekend.

SPURS 123, PISTONS 95

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Sandro Mamukelashvili had 18 points and San Antonio routed Detroit to close disappointing seasons for both franchises.

Blake Wesley added 17 points for San Antonio. Zach Collins had 17 points and nine rebounds before injuring his shoulder early in the second half.

San Antonio was without Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 pick in the draft and expected Rookie of the Year. Detroit was without Cade Cunningham, the top pick in 2021.

THUNDER 135, MAVERICKS 86

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 points in one half of action, and Oklahoma City rolled past Dallas to clinch the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Oklahoma City finished with the same 57-25 record as the Denver Nuggets but own the tiebreaker. The Thunder hadn't finished as the top seed since the 2012-13 season.

Aaron Wiggins scored 14 points and Chet Holmgren had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who won their fifth straight to close the regular season.

WARRIORS 123, JAZZ 116

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Klay Thompson scored 25 points with six 3-pointers, Andrew Wiggins added 19 points, and Golden State beat Utah in the regular-season finale and wound up with the 10th spot in the Western Conference.

With the Lakers winning at New Orleans and the Kings beating Portland at home, Golden State will head to Sacramento on Tuesday as the No.

10 seed to face the ninth-seeded Kings in the Play-In Tournament. The Warriors won a thrilling first-round playoff series against their Northern California rival in Game 7 last year.

Golden State only could have moved up as high as eighth if it won and both the Kings and Lakers lost.

SUNS 125, TIMBERWOLVES 106

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Bradley Beal scored 36 points on 6-for-6 shooting from 3-point range and Phoenix beat Minnesota to stay out of the play-in tournament and set up a rematch in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Devin Booker added 23 points and Grayson Allen had 20 points for the Suns (49-33). They built a 22-point lead by the end of the first quarter and never let the deficit drop into single digits after that.

Phoenix finished the regular season on a 10-4 surge and seized the No. 6 seed when New Orleans lost. After entering the final day in a three-way tie for the Western Conference lead with Denver and Oklahoma City, Minnesota took the No. 3 seed when the Nuggets and Thunder each won.

KINGS 121, TRAIL BLAZERS 82

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—De'Aaron Fox scored 24 points and Sacramento assured themselves of at least one more home game by beating Portland in the teams' regular-season finale.

Sacramento will head into the play-in tournament on Tuesday night, hosting Golden State in the ninth versus 10th-place game in the Western Conference. The New Orleans Pelicans will face the Los Angeles Lakers in the No. 7 versus No. 8 matchup.

After snapping an NBA-

record long 16-year playoff drought last season, the Kings were in good position to finish in the top six and return to the postseason this year before losing five of six games headed into the season finale. Now they must get in through the play-in tournament without key injured players Malik Monk and Kevin Huerter.

They cruised in the finale against a short-handed Blazers team playing out the string on a lost season. The Kings opened a 20-point lead in the second quarter and never were threatened.

NUGGETS 126, GRIZZLIES 111

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jamal Murray scored 21 points, Nikola Jokic had 15 points and 15 rebounds, and defending champion Denver secured the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference with a victory over Memphis.

The Nuggets (57-25) matched a franchise high for wins and finished with the same record as Oklahoma City, but the Thunder took the top spot in the West because of a head-to-head tiebreaker. Minnesota's loss to Phoenix dropped the Timberwolves into third, one game behind Denver.

Denver entered the game in a three-way tie with Minnesota and Oklahoma City. It was the first time such a logjam had existed on the final day of the season with three teams having a chance at the No. 1 seed. The Thunder locked up the top spot by routing Dallas.

Christian Braun scored 19 points for the Nuggets and Aaron Gordon added 15.

LAKERS 124, PELICANS 108

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—LeBron James had 28 points, 17 assists, 11 rebounds and five steals, and Los Angeles claimed the eighth seed in the Western Conference with a victory over New Orleans that dropped the Pelicans out of a coveted top-six seeding.

Anthony Davis had 30 points and 11 rebounds against the team that made him the first overall NBA draft choice in 2012 to help set up a rematch on Tuesday night in the same arena in the conference play-in. But Davis asked out of the game in the final minutes and walked gingerly back to the locker room.

James' triple-double was his fifth this season and his play-making helped spearhead a dominant performance in the paint, where Los Angeles outscored New Orleans 68-42.

Austin Reaves scored 20 points and D'Angelo Russell scored 19 for the Lakers, who won eight of their final 11 regular-season games.

McCutchen's 300th career home run helps lift Pirates over Phillies 9-2



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—

Andrew McCutchen hit his 300th home run, Jack Suwinski had a grand slam and the Pittsburgh Pirates defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 9-2 on Sunday to gain a split of the four-game series.

Phillies star Bryce Harper was 0 for 4 and is in a 2-for-30 slide that has dropped his average to .190.

The 37-year-old McCutchen, who played for the Phillies from 2019-21, drove a Ricardo Pinto slider into the left-field seats in the ninth inning for his first home run this season. He became the 13th player with 2,000 hits, 400 doubles, 45 triples, 300 homers and 200 stolen bases.

McCutchen stole home as part of a double steal in the fourth inning when catcher J.T. Realmuto's throw sailed into center field as Realmuto tried to nab Jared Triolo at second base.

Suwinski hit his second career slam for a 5-2 lead in the sixth inning against Zack Wheeler (0-3), who allowed five runs—four earned—five hits and three walks in five-plus innings. Wheeler struck out 10, his 23rd double-digit strikeout game.

GUARDIANS 8, YANKEES 7, 10 innings

CLEVELAND (AP)—Andrés Giménez's sacrifice fly capped Cleveland's wild, three-run rally in the 10th inning as the Guardians salvaged the finale of a three-game series with a stunning win over New York.

Down 7-5, the Guardians scored three in the 10th off Caleb Ferguson (0-2) on a force-out, fielder's choice and sacrifice fly.

The Yankees had taken a 7-6 lead in the 10th on Anthony Rizzo's two-run double off Tyler Beede (1-0).

But the Guardians, who were one out away from winning when the Yankees rallied in the ninth, came up with big at-bats to pull off a stunning win to close a first homestand that began with total solar eclipse.

ORIOLES 6, BREWERS 4

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jackson Holliday delivered his first big league hit in the seventh inning, then scored the tiebreaking run to help Baltimore avoid a sweep with a victory over Milwaukee.

Holliday, baseball's top-ranked prospect, struck out in his first two at-bats and was 0 for 13 with nine Ks since his call-up before he came up with the Orioles down 4-3 in the seventh. With a man on first and no outs, Holliday pulled a 99 mph offering from Abner Uribe (1-1) into right field for a single. Then the rookie infielder flashed his speed, barely making it from



Pittsburgh Pirates' Jack Suwinski (65) is met at home by Rowdy Tellez (44) after hitting a grand slam home run during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, April 14, 2024, in Philadelphia.

first to third on Gunnar Henderson's RBI single.

That was an important extra base, because it enabled Holliday to score and put the Orioles up 5-4 when Adley Rutschman bounced into a double play. Colton Cowser went deep the following inning for Baltimore's third solo homer of the day. Holliday stranded two runners that inning with a groundout.

BLUE JAYS 5, ROCKIES 0

TORONTO (AP)—José Berrios and two relievers combined on a two-hitter, Justin Turner had three hits and three RBIs and Toronto beat Colorado for their second shutout victory of the season.

Turner opened the scoring with a two-out single in the first, doubled home a run in the third and added another two-out RBI single in the fifth, all against Rockies left-hander Kyle Freeland.

Turner is 8 for 10 with six RBIs against left-handed pitching this season.

The Blue Jays won their second straight series after losing the previous two.

Berrios (3-0) allowed two hits, both singles, walked two and struck out seven. He lowered his ERA from 1.45 to 1.05.

TIGERS 4, TWINS 3

DETROIT (AP)—Mark Canha's two-run double highlighted a four-run eighth inning for Detroit as they rallied to beat Minnesota.

The Tigers trailed 3-0 after seven innings, but took the lead against Caleb Thielbar and Griffin Jax.

Javier Báez hit a solo homer off Thielbar to make it 3-1 in the eighth. Thielbar, making his season debut, allowed two groundball singles to put runners at the corners with one out.

Twins manager Rocco Baldelli brought in Jax (1-1), but Canha's chopper down the

third-base line eluded Kyle Farmer for a two-run double. Canha went to third on the throw to the plate, and Spencer Torkelson looped a Texas Leaguer into right-center for an RBI single that put the Tigers ahead.

RAYS 9, GIANTS 4

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Amed Rosario and René Pinto homered off Blake Snell in his return to Tropicana Field, and Tampa Bay Rays beat San Francisco.

Rosario hit a two-run homer during a three-run first and Pinto had a fourth-inning three-run drive. The light-hitting Pinto, who had two hits and nine strikeouts in his previous 13 at-bats, added a solo homer in the sixth against Kai-Wei Teng.

Snell (0-2) gave up seven hits, walked two and struck out four over four innings in his second start with San Francisco after signing a \$62 million, two-year contract that allows him to opt out after this season. The two-time Cy Young Award winner threw 48 of 78 pitches for strikes.

BRAVES 9, MARLINS 7

MIAMI (AP)—Marcell Ozuna hit a three-run homer off Tanner Scott with two outs in the ninth inning, and Atlanta beat Miami to take two of three from the Marlins.

Atlanta wasted a 5-1 lead and fell behind 7-5 in the sixth when Jesús Sánchez hit a tying RBI single with two outs against Charlie Morton and scored on Nick Gordon's two-run homer off Dylan Lee.

Ozuna hit an RBI double in the seventh against Anthony Bender. Then in the ninth, Ronald Acuña Jr. singled off Scott (0-3) leading off, Matt Olson walked on four pitches with two outs and Ozuna drove a slider with an 0-2 count to center for his seventh home run this season.

RED SOX 5, ANGELS 4

BOSTON (AP)—Masataka Yoshida hit his first homer of the season, one of three home runs by Boston, and the Red Sox beat Los Angeles.

The designated hitter Yoshida hit his off reliever José Suarez in the sixth inning and scored a runner. Tyler O'Neill and Triston Casas hit back-to-back two-out homers in the first off left-hander Tyler Anderson (2-1).

After going seven scoreless innings in each of his first two starts, Anderson went 4 1/3, giving up three runs on four hits and three walks (one intentional) with four strikeouts.

Brandon Drury cut the deficit with a solo shot in the second, his first home run of the season, off Boston starter

ASTROS 8, RANGERS 5

HOUSTON (AP)—Jose Altuve homered off Nathan Eovaldi in his first two at-bats and Cristian Javier pitched seven strong innings to lead Houston to a win over Texas.

After dropping the series opener 12-8, the Astros have won back-to-back games following a 4-11 start that left them seven games under .500 for the first time since 2016. They improved to 4-3 against AL West rival Texas this season.

Javier (2-0) allowed five hits and two runs with five strikeouts to give Houston a second straight solid pitching performance after dismal outings by its starters in the previous three games.

REDS 11, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Christian Encarnacion-Strand tied a career high with four RBIs, and Cincinnati routed Chicago for a three-game sweep.

Chicago dropped to 2-13, the worst 15-game start in the franchise's 124-year history. The White Sox had 14 hits in the series and has scored a major league-low 34 runs.

Encarnacion-Strand and Nick Martini hit two-homers for the Reds, at 9-6 off to their best 15-game start in three years. Encarnacion-Strand also had four RBIs against Pittsburgh last Sept. 23.

METS 2, ROYALS 1

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Bader broke a scoreless tie with an infield single in the eighth inning and Edwin Díaz earned his first save at Citi Field since October 2022 as New York edged Kansas City.

Mets rookie Jose Butto and Royals starter Cole Ragans matched zeros for six innings in a crisp pitchers' duel. New York stranded nine runners over the first seven innings—seven between the fifth and seventh—before Chris Stratton (1-1) walked the bases loaded in the eighth.

CUBS 3, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Michael Busch homered for the fourth straight game, Javier Assad struck out six and Chicago beat Seattle.

Reliever Adbert Alzolay picked off pinch-runner Julio Rodríguez to end the game after double plays ended two rallies.

Busch's two-run homer put the Cubs up 3-0 and helped them to their second straight win to take the series from the Mariners. The franchise record for consecutive games with a home run is five, held by four players, including current Cubs slugger Christopher Morel, who did it last season.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, CARDINALS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Zac Gallen pitched six sharp innings and Corbin Carroll hit a two-run single in a five-run fifth to lead Arizona over St. Louis.

Gallen (3-0) threw 90 pitches, giving up four hits and walking two. He struck out seven, two of them coming with a run-

ner on third and one out.

The right-hander caught Brandon Crawford looking on a full count with the bases loaded in the second and then got a grounder to escape the jam. Gallen also whiffed Ivan Herrera on a 3-2 curve in the fourth before retiring Crawford on a popup.

St. Louis starter Miles Mikolas (1-2) faced the minimum through four innings but didn't finish the fifth.

ATHLETICS 7, NATIONALS 6

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Abraham Toro hit a go-ahead, two-run single in a six-run sixth inning, and Oakland rallied from five runs down to beat Washington to win three straight series for the first time since 2021.

Oakland took two of three for the third straight series after going 4-2 on a trip to Detroit and Texas. The A's are 6-3 following a 1-6 start. They had not won three consecutive series since winning five in a row from May 31 to June 16, 2021.

A crowd of 8,637 attended the game, raising the total to 17,744 for the three game series. The A's have announced plans to play in Sacramento from 2025-27 until a new ballpark is built in Las Vegas.

Washington led 6-1 in the sixth, when Toro walked against Trevor Williams leading off and JJ Bleday hit a one-out double.

PADRES 6, DODGERS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jurickson Profar broke a seventh-inning tie with a three-run double, Jackson Merrill had three hits and San Diego defeated Los Angeles to take two of three in their weekend series.

Profar's bases-loaded drive off the center-field fence against J.P. Feyereisen (0-1) gave the Padres two straight series wins at Dodger Stadium for the first time since 2013.

The Padres took advantage of 14 walks issued by five Dodgers pitchers, the most San Diego has drawn in a nine-inning game. Ha-Seong Kim walked in each of his first four plate appearances and Xander Bogaerts drew three.

It was the most walks by Dodgers pitchers since they issued 16 against the Mets in a 1962 game. James Paxton walked eight in five-plus innings, the most by a Los Angeles starter since Matt Magill handed out nine free passes in a 2013 game against Colorado.

Max Muncy hit a two-run homer in the fourth for the Dodgers, who have dropped three of four.

Yuki Matsui (2-0) got the win with 1 1/3 innings of hitless relief and Robert Suarez picked up his fifth save.

Scheffler unstoppable and wins another Masters green jacket



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Scottie Scheffler spent more time looking at his feet than any of the white leaderboards at Augusta National, all of them showing what everyone was watching—a Masters champion again, the undisputed best player in golf.

He prefers to stay in his own little world, population one.

Nobody is close to him in



AP
Scottie Scheffler celebrates his win at the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club Sunday, April 14, 2024, in Augusta, Ga.

the game at the moment.

Scheffler is No. 1 in the world by a margin not seen since Tiger Woods in his prime. In nine tournaments this year, he doesn't have a round over par and has earned over \$15 million. And on Sunday, he delivered the greatest piece of evidence when he slipped into that green jacket.

Scheffler pulled ahead with magnificent shots around the turn, poured it on along the back nine as his challengers melted away with mistakes and closed with a 4-under 68 to claim his second Masters

in three years with a four-shot victory.

"I had a lot of really talented players trying to chase me down, and I knew pars weren't going to get it done," Scheffler said.

Unlike two years ago when he won his first major, there were no doubts Sunday morning, no tears, and no wife to reassure him he was built for a moment like this. His wife, Meredith, was home in Dallas expecting their first child at the end of the month.

Scheffler made sure there was no drama, either.

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feating Guam, 3-0, Federated States of Micronesia, 3-0, and Nauru, 3-0. The team consisted of Selina Chi, Stella Choi, and Emma Lang.

The NMI U12 boys doubles team, on the other hand, took second place but also qualified for Fiji.

Michael Jeong, Daniel Kang, and Matt Zhu fell second to Guam's team made up of Edward Calvo, Camelo Chen, and Daniel Aki Noble.

All in all, along with the boys and girls U16 winners announced yesterday—boys U16 players Nason Wessel, Si Woo Lee, Henry Choi, and June Yu and girls U16 players Irin Chung and Hoo Wang, a total of 16 NMI netters qualified for the 2024 Pacific Oceania Junior Championship in Lautoka, Fiji this July.

Lee, who's been playing tennis since she was around 4-5 years old, said the competition

was "pretty good. I got to meet new challengers but I got to beat them all. I'm pretty thankful to my coach—my dad."

As for her finals matchup, she said, "I didn't mind the weather. I just wanted to play. My opponent was pretty good so I was kind of tired." On qualifying for Fiji, she said, "I'm pretty happy about it. I'm proud of myself."

Thirteen-year-old Hsiao, on his win, said, "I played well in all. I got a lot of balls in and I was really determined to win. I felt amazed and very happy to go to Fiji."

On his experience playing against other countries, he said, "It's very interesting to play stronger players and to see how other people play."

Guam's junior national team head coach Ryan Horn told *Saipan Tribune* that the competition was "fantastic." He said there were 22 Guam players, and out of the 22, 10 were first-timers. "It is truly a great development program for these kids. These kids are

also having a ton of fun making friends and making lifelong memories," said Horn.

As for Guam's qualifying players, he said, "It's been a fantastic week all around. These kids have given everything they've got. They've worked hard for the last three months with me and their respective coaches, and they've come and traveled and represented Guam with amazing gusto and amazing heart."

One father from Guam, Manny Pangelinan, said that his

daughter, Ella, who competed in the girls U12 division, is a first-time competitor. He said the tourney was "good. It's very nice for her to come out and get the opportunity to be with other kids from other places."

The tourney that featured players from the CNMI, Guam, Nauru, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia was organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and funded by the Oceania Tennis Federation and International Tennis Federation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The boys U12 division winners pose for a photo during the North Pacific Regional Championships awards ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The boys U14 division Top 4 qualifiers pose for a group photo during the North Pacific Regional Championships awards ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The girls U12 division winners pose for a group photo during the North Pacific Regional Championships awards ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

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ing ceremony before they opened up the season, with the ceremonial first pitch thrown by retired sports broadcaster Bob Coldeen.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, NSA president Ian Norita said that having baseball back for the youth means everything to them. "With baseball back it allows our youth a chance to get out of their houses to play the sport they love with their friends and family," he said.

With the 12 teams vying for the championship this season, Norita said all of them are

looking strong and that he is looking forward to watching every game.

As the season unfolds, Norita said the goal is to bring each and everyone that wants to be a part of the season together.

"The NSA motto is 'cover home' which means protecting our community from alcohol, drugs and other bad habits. What better way to do that, other than keeping them on the diamond!" said Norita, who also coaches the Tanapag Braves.

With the conclusion of the first day of games, Norita said that it was a good outcome and turnout. "I wasn't expecting many people to be present

but by the looks of it, the baseball field will be packed every weekend!" he said.

He then gave a shout out to NSA chair George Camacho, their volunteers, and to everyone who helped make this season happen. "A huge thank you! Looking forward to watching this season unfold," said Norita.

In the season opener after the opening ceremony, the Major League took to the diamond first with the Tanapag Braves' first win of the season in a shutout, 19-0 game over the Lil' Blue Jays.

The Braves' pitching staff, led by Kaleb Reyes, put on a stellar performance and didn't allow the Lil' Blue Jays to reach

home plate in four innings. The Braves' bats came out as hot as the sun was too and scored 13 runs in the first inning alone.

Three more unanswered runs would score in the second, and they tacked on three more in the third for good measure as the Lil' Blue Jays conceded in the fourth.

The next game was won by the Ol'Aces in another blowout, 29-10, over the Comets. In the third game, the Marlins outscored the Cobras, 29-18.

Catch the action at the Capital Hill Softball Field on Saturday, with games from 9am, 11am, and 1pm; and Sunday from 10am, 12pm, and 2pm.

PADDLE

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values and lessons she instilled in the swimmers, and how her legacy continues to inspire the next generation. They also expressed gratitude toward Jean and Bill for their leadership and selflessness in leading Saipan's swimming community.

Jean arrived on Saipan in 1973 from Hawaii and formed the first sports club on Saipan in 1974.

Glen Policare led the memorial and opened up with what Carolyn Pierce wrote in SCC's newsletter, *The Trident's* last issue. "Jean Sakovich had a lifelong passion for swimming that she shared with hundreds of all ages for 55 years. This final issue of the Saipan Swim Club is dedicated to her and her accomplishments with the over 300 swimmers from the Northern Marianas."

Jacoby Winkfield wrapped up the tribute and said, "Thank you to the legacy and the gift you gave us. I see all of my fellow swimmers out there and other generations. They're still here and supporting the community. You gave all of us a gift—something that we can do for a very long time, so thank you. I'm sharing that with my kids and trying to pass it on to the community."

Bill told *Saipan Tribune* in an email that the tribute was a "wonderful tribute" to his wife "who has done a lot around the world especially in aquatic activities."

"I really want to thank Jacoby Winkfield and Glenn Policare for organizing the tribute on Saipan. It was so nice to see Saipan and our Saipan friends again and the beaches where the Saipan Swim Club had its beginnings," said Bill.

"Jeannie and I are indebted to the people of Saipan and the tributes that keep coming in. Thank you to those heartfelt comments by Bob and Debbie Winkfield, Bob Coldeen, Jeff Race, Roberta Guerrero, and others who offered their kind words. Thank you, Saipan, *si yu'us ma'ase!*" he said.

Bill added that earlier on the same day of the Saipan tribute, they honored Jean with a paddle out to Hilo Bay in Hawaii with about 50 canoes that participated in a traditional Hawaiian farewell. CNMI's Jeremy Winkfield and Chris Nelson were in attendance. Also, last Friday, Bill said that a "Celebration of Life" was held with about 250 attendees at the Hilo Yacht Club.

Bill said that the CNMI Legislature acknowledged Jean with a proclamation, and the Oceania Swimming Federation acknowledged her with the Outstanding Swim Coach of the Year award in the Pacific Islands and the Jean Sakovich Memorial Award that is presented at each Oceania Championships.

In Hilo, she has been praised by her outrigger canoe paddling club Keaukaha Canoe Club, the Warriors Aquatic Swim Club, and Hawaiian Swimming.

LEIGH GASES

Jacoby Winkfield, with the microphone, and family shared their thanks and memories to Jean "Mrs." Sakovich during the "Celebration of Life" paddle out ceremony last Sunday at the Guma Sakman.





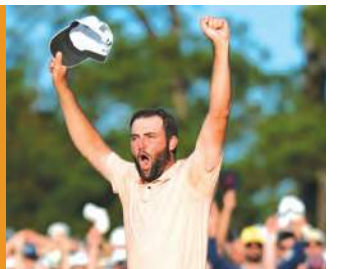
Pritchard scores career-high 38 as Celtics beat Wizards.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Paddle out tribute held for 'Mrs.'



LEIGH GASES

Flowers covered the shores off Guma Sakman in Susupe during the "Celebration of Life" paddle out ceremony for CNMI Hall of Famer and Saipan Swim Club co-founder Jean Sakovich last Sunday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

A heartfelt and beautiful "Celebration of Life" tribute was held for the late Saipan Swim Club co-founder and 2004 CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Jean "Jeannie" Sakovich at the Guma Sakman in Susupe last Sunday.



The memorial was live-streamed and watched by her family including widower, co-founder of SCC, and fellow Hall of Famer Bill Sakovich in Hawaii.

Before proceeding in the water for the paddle out, the ceremony was serenaded by Larry

and Kui Lee and Ed Johnson.

Flowers placed by people who attended the tribute covered the water with its colorful petals as some swam out and paddled out in their canoes for another tribute in the water off the shores of Susupe.

On land, an outpouring of memories was shared from the diverse lives she touched throughout the years—from the Winkfield family including Jacoby, Bobby, and Debbie; Bob Coldeen, Jeff Race, Colin Thompson, Keanna Villagomez, Michail Villagomez, and Roberta Guerrero.

As the group formed a circle by the water's edge, they shared stories and memories of Jean, who Saipan swimmers fondly called "Mrs."

They highlighted her dedication, hard work, and passion for swimming and the

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LEIGH GASES

People lined the shore, flowers covered the water, and swimmers and paddlers dotted the horizon during the "Celebration of Life" paddle out ceremony for CNMI Hall of Famer and Saipan Swim Club co-founder Jean Sakovich last Sunday at the Guma Sakman.

Natibu Sports Association youth baseball league underway

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League is underway after its first day of games last Sunday at the Capital Hill Softball Field.

There are two divisions—the Major League from 8 to 12 years old, and the Junior



LEIGH GASES

Tanapag Braves pitcher Kaleb Reyes throws a pitch during their game against the Lil' Blue Jays in the Major League division of the Natibu Sports Association Youth Baseball League at the Capital Hill Softball Field last Sunday.

League from 13 to 14 years old. Games will be played at the Capital Hill Softball Field with three games on Saturday and three games on Sunday.

Major League teams are Tanapag Braves, Lil' Blue Jays, Pirates, Comets, Lil' Cubs, Ol' Aces, Cobras, and Marlins.

Junior League teams are Comets, Blue Jays, NSA Braves, and Phillies.

The league held an open-

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Anne tops girls 14; 16 NMI netters qualify for Fiji

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Anne Lee, younger sister of NCAA tennis star Carol, swatted her way to first place overall in the girls U14 division in the conclusion of the North Pacific Regional Championships last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The tennis genes definitely run in the family as 13-year-old Lee dominated the field in the tourney that was held from April 8 to April 13 with an undefeated run. In the finals, she clinched the top qualifying spot with a 6-1, 6-1 card against Guam's Faith Perera.

Prior to the finals, Lee

racked up five wins and also won all her matches in the girls U14 doubles with partner Lina Tsukagoshi that led to first place over NMI's Vivian Chung and Jenna Pascual, 6-0, 6-0.

The third qualifying spot in the girls U14 division went to Tsukagoshi and the fourth went to Guam's Leah San Augustin.

In the boys U14 division, Guam's Jacob Hsiao and Jeren Devera took the Top 2 spots, while NMI's Ian Chae and Ryan Choi landed third and fourth respectively.

NMI's U12 girls doubles team swept the division with three wins after de-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The girls U14 top doubles division winners, including Top 1 in the singles division, Anne Lee, right, and Top 3 Lina Tsukagoshi, second from right, during the North Pacific Regional Championships awards ceremony last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.